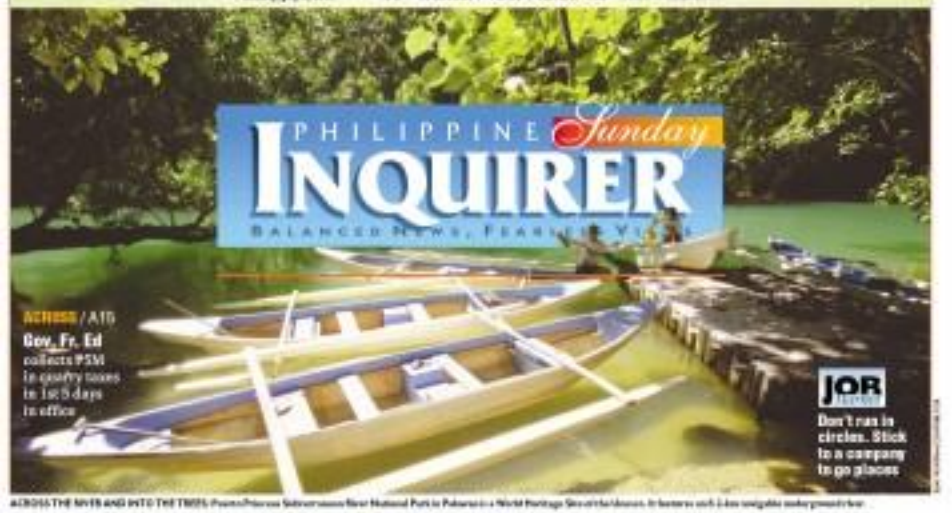
Sunday, July 8, 2007 ++ 14 sections / Vol. 33 / No. 210 P28 website www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



ACROSS / A10

Gov. Fr. Ed collects P5M in quarry taxes in 1st 5 days in office

JOR LEVI'S

Don't run in circles. Stick to a company to go places

ACROSS THE RIVER AND INTO THE TREES: Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park in Palawan is a World Heritage Site of the Universe. It features such 1-km navigable underground river.

Bossi photos spark hope

Fellow priests say they look forward to pictures of his liberation

By John S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—HOPE HAS RISEN THAT KIDNAPPED Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi is still alive with the confirmation that it is indeed he in photographs received by his friend.

On Saturday morning, the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (Pime) community posted a statement on its website saying: "There are now pictures of the captivity of Father Giancarlo Bossi. He can use them on cell phones, TV and newspapers. Taken in an undisclosed place where there are trees of a young forest. He is wearing the same clothes he wore on the day of his kidnapping. The sandals (slippers) are red and new. There are rubber shoes, too, left on the ground. Containers of water suggest that they are taking up to some higher places, maybe mountaintop, where (he or is made this and stuff)."

"Other things are inside these pictures, but we do not want life and career purchase on his blog. They spoke to us. He (the other pictures) those of the day of his liberation!"

Italian lawmaker Margherita Boniver says he has government to help the three Bossi's relatives, said the photographs "could have been taken in (the) 14 days of his abduction" on June 10.

"His fellow priests said he lost lots of weight, and his beard is different from the time when he was kidnapped," Boniver said of hours, a statement of June.

But Boniver told reporters in Zamboanga that the photographs were not dated, and warned against becoming too hopeful that the photos were proof that Bossi had not been killed, The Associated Press said.

"It is not possible to state that this is hard proof of his being still alive," Boniver.

BOSSI, A2

"NOT PROOF OF LIFE. Italian envoy Margherita Boniver said new allegedly photos of Bossi's first photos in captivity. She adds that Bossi has become a national hero in Italy and that the whole country is [illegible] big crusade with health hopes and prayers. ALTER

Cheche makes a difference through 20 probing years

By Nara Pedroso, Inquirer Research

FOR VETERAN BROADCAST JOURNALIST, professor and educator Cecilia "Cheche" Lazaro, this year's recipient of the Gawad Plaridel award, the 20-year trip to reform she is now all about focusing on a goal, holding on to issues and bringing in personal connection.

"My life as a communicator reflects my life as an independent producer. It started out as a dream—to work, if you will—to make a difference," Lazaro said in a lecture on July 4 before students and faculty members at the Law School of the University of the Philippines Diliman campus.

In the end, I must say I got much more than I bargained for," she said.

Lazaro is the fourth recipient of the UP College of Mass Communication's Gawad Plaridel. The award is given out annually to a Filipino media practitioner who has excelled in print, film, radio, television or the new media. (See In the Know, Page NE.)

The driving force behind the first and

PEDROSO, A4

Sick boy started it all for Rosa Rosal 57 years ago

By Joanne O. Andrade

IT TOOK A SICK BOY TO LEAD more than Rosal to a life of unconditional volunteer service.

Rosal says she no longer remembers the boy's name, who was in a coma when the building activist first saw him in the emergency room of the Philippine General Hospital one day in 1948.

"He was comatose for three days. I kept on coming back. I did not know what a coma was. I had no idea what caused it. I found out that he fell from a five-story building and he was bleeding inside. By was hemorrhaging," Rosal said in Filipino.

When the nurses, three only, 17, assured that the boy needed a new kidney, she called up a friend, Dr. Victor Reyes, a neurosurgeon, who readily obliged and examined the boy. Reyes and the boy needed a blood transfusion.

They got the blood and an operation was performed immediately. The boy was saved.

That incident changed Rosal's life. "It was that boy that started it. It was then that I saw how blood, no matter how small a drop, can get life."

From then on, Rosal has been in the forefront of taking total donating blood to save lives. It has been her life and avocation for almost 57 years now.

ROSAL, A11

The only Pinoy (or Pinay) in Tonga tilt

IN SHEER SIZE, THE TUTLEAT

TONGA, A2

How sweet it is: Negros organic sugar a hit in Paris

By Nik Cuevas

BACOLOD CITY—IME 'SOURED SMAL for 17 days to attend a trade fair, met some resists and set up close bona her product appealed to French tastes.

How sweet it is, Florinda Dupitoy now recalls, smiling through what's left of her front teeth. And so does the future arena for this sugarcane farmer from Binalbagan town in Negros Occidental who, in her late 50s, learned how to grow organic.

Her humble harvest now sits on European grocery shelves.

Dupitoy and her Filipino partner in the production of export-quality charcoal (her "mastermade" (raw sugar) were invited to France in April to present on ongoing efforts to promote earth-friendly farming in Negros, the Philippines' sugar

SUGAR, A2

P1.5-B school launches 'pay later' plan for seamen

By Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

CALAMBA, CITY—JAMES PASTOR'S dream of becoming a seafarer and earning enough for his family now looms larger than ever.

The reason: The opening of a new P1.5 billion maritime school in a sprawling industrial park here where Pastor is now enrolled on a scholarship.

Pastor is totally among the first batch of students enrolled at the 19HLTSC Maritime Academy (HMA), which opening last Friday was graced by Pres. dent Macapagal-Arroyo and officials of the Japanese government.

HME stands for Filipino Yusen Kaisha, a Japanese shipping company considered to be the oldest in the world and the largest in Asia.

YSK, or Transnational Diversified Group, is a Filipino-owned company which serves as the local partner of NYK

SCHOOL, A2

Cape Antonio Emil, dean of the Center for Shipboard Training and Continuing Education at NEMA, said one of the main themes of the maritime school is to help poor but intelligent students like Pastor fulfill their dreams of becoming successful merchant marine officers.

P1.5-B SCHOOL, A2

Something smells so good at the Disney-Pixar kitchen. Who's cooking? Filipino animator Gini Cruz Santos has scrumptious recipe for "Ratatouille"
JUNIOR INQUIRER

Why and how Filipinos go crazy over Japanese animation
SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Top 10 unique items to buy from the Japan House Center in Cubao's Farmer's Market
SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Celebrity wedding of the year: 'Desperate' housewife Eva Longoria weds Tony Parker in a chateau outside Paris to catch the mystique of the 777 cast
ENTERTAINMENT / 1/2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, JULY 1, 2007

6/22 SIX DIGIT
19 29 | 2 7 7 9 5 6

Mega Lotto 6/49 (Tuesday)
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6/42 LUZON/VISAYAS-MSWD
4 6 11 19 31 39
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WEATHER FORECAST

Metro Manila	Mostly cloudy	Northeast	Mostly cloudy
Baguio	Rain/Cloudy	Ilocos	Cloudy with rain
Tuguegarao	Rain/Cloudy	Cagayan	Cloudy with rain
Legaspi	Rain/Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with rain
Puerto Princesa	Mostly cloudy	Iloilo	Cloudy with rain
Cebu	Mostly cloudy	Dipolog	Mostly cloudy
Zamboanga	Mostly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly cloudy
Davao	Mostly cloudy	Surigao	Mostly cloudy

Full report on page A-16

Gov't execs hang on to posts

Exemptions from GMA revamp, reappointments sought

By Michael Lim Ubac

SOME GOVERNMENT APPOINTEES IN SEQUESTERED companies are bent on clinging to their posts despite a Malacañang directive to submit their courtesy resignations to give President Macapagal-Arroyo a free hand in reorganizing the bureaucracy.

The appointees are reportedly trying to get exemptions from Ms Arroyo's revamp of government-owned and controlled corporations and financial institutions.

Without naming names, Malacañang yesterday admitted it had yet to receive the resignation letters of all the government nominees and appointees, including those sitting in the boards of sequestered companies such as Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC).

Presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio, however, said: "I don't have that information. I have to check with (Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita)."

Acting PHC chair Enrique Locsin and other government nominees had already tendered their resignation, according to lawyer Lotilla Espinosa, counsel for five families claiming ownership of the PCI Bank corporation.

The other government appointees are Manuel Andal, Philip Bonifort, Luis Lobin and Johnny Tan.

"That's public knowledge (that their heirs resigned) as ordered by DBMs," said Espinosa.

Inquirer sources in the Presidential Commission on Good Governance (PCGG), however, said Locsin and the other appointees wanted to be reappointed despite the findings of a recent Senate inquiry that the current government nominees in PHC (Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp.) and Philcomsat had been ineffective in preserving the interests of the government in these companies.

PHC is 80-percent owned by Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat).

Both companies in turn are owned by the PCGG, whose chairs were sequestered in 1986 on allegations these were acquired with ill-gotten wealth.

The PCGG was formed in 1986 to go after the ill-gotten wealth of Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies.

In an April 12 ruling, the Makati Regional Trial Court handed over full ownership and control of PHC to the owners led by a group of five families, overruling the board representing the PCGG.

The ruling came after almost two decades of a protracted legal battle over PHC, a cash-rich P3.5-billion company with no debt.

The order issued by Judge Amanda Calegam-Lagsalita of the Makati RTC through Sub-Judge Ismael mervations of an Oct. 14, 2006, ruling by the same court that nullified the election of the PCGG board headed by Locsin in 2004.

That board consisted of Locsin, Julito Jalandoni, Rhinnel Amihil, Luis Lobin Jr., Manuel Nieto Jr., Ruben S. San Jose, Philip Ronilo, Dilwin Lopez, Roberto Amoreta and Rolando Abad.

The judge recognized as "valid" the board headed by Victor T. Africa with members Edwin A. Bautista-Bildner, Ramon Ponce-Enrile, Antonio Peñalver II, Rolando Agustin, Sylvia Banzon and Jose Cuisia.

The decision settled for the time being a long-standing quarrel among shareholders for control of three companies—PHC, Philcomsat and PCIC.

Maguindanao town results show 6-4-2 for GO bets

By Jeannie Aviso

THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE. Two months after the Maguindanao election, the results from 36 precincts in the 38 IDs from eight of the county's 12 municipalities showed six Genuine Opposition candidates, four Team Unity candidates and two independents making it to the Top 12.

TU's Amihilil Sinsuat II placed first with 2,752 votes, followed by Genuine Opposition's Antonio Trillanes IV with 1,931 and Cesar Montano, also of TU, 1,511.

The next three who placed last, Eduardo Ongkiko of Kilusang Bayang Ligonan, got 18 votes.

Opposition lawyers believe this is the first authentic set of election documents to come out of Maguindanao province.

Although the Pagalungan IDs were not counted really significant, it was enough to show that the provincial certificate of canvass (COC) presented by Bedol, as well as the votes counted (still), were likely fraudulent, Genuine Opposition lawyers said.

The controversial Maguindanao COC has the administration's provincial slate Team Unity sweeping the top 12 positions in the provincial bets, with 10 other candidates getting zero votes.

In the original CoC presented by Bedol, Senator Barbo Jinggoy Estrada got 1,000 votes, but it was Zaldy who topped the Maguindanao vote in the beginning.

Among the candidates who received zero votes in the provincial tally but who got votes in the Pagalungan IDs were GO Senatorial-slate Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, Alan Peter Cayetano, Panfilo Lacson and Antonio Trillanes IV.

WHAT'S SO FUNNY! Cebu that Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim would not allow protests on Mendiola Street in front of Malacañang to get out of hand (as is of his old order in opening to demonstrations), he assured President Arroyo who seems to be tickled pink by the assurance. The ex-soldier was the inauguration at the Quezon ng Kanunungan in Tayuman, Manila, which was attended by Speaker Jose de Venecia (left) and Rep. Juliet Lopez (right). Story is in Metro, Page A22.

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7 books recasting Marcos launched on auspicious day

MARCOS

ON THE SEVENTH day of the seventh month of the seventh year of the millennium, seven books were launched to paint a kinder, gentler portrait of the late former Filipino with a fixation on the number seven—the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

His family launched the books, which include accounts by his former aides of his years in office, because it was important, his eldest daughter said, "that history set the facts straight for the next generation, for our children and the story."

Former Rep. Imee Marcos was alluding to the many unfavorable accounts about her father, who was ousted in a People Power revolt in February 1986 and died in exile in Hawaii in 1989.

The Marcoses have been accused of misusing billions of dollars in alleged ill-gotten wealth, and of alleged human rights violations.

The government said it had recovered at least $1.7 billion in cash and assets from the Marcoses and their associates over two decades, including Swiss bank deposits worth at least $660 million.

The books and the Marcos Presidential Center within the National Library were launched on July 7, 2007, because Marcos considered seven his lucky number, his family said.

"It is time that we respect what was past and what was part of our story, and it is time indeed that all Filipinos be told ... as many times as they need to be told until they are bored," Imee said.

The launching comes at a time when the Marcoses have been recovering some of their seized assets, and seeing the dismissal of ill-gotten wealth cases filed against them.

"This is really bringing out the truth about the Marcoses who I think played a very major role for 20 years in this country's history," Marcos' widow, Imelda, said in a speech at the book launch, attended by her children, grandchildren and former officials of the Marcos government. "The Marcos era ... really set the foundation of our nationhood."

At a press forum on Thursday, she presented the "decisive" tug given to her late husband, calling him "a great democrat" who held US dictators and plutocrats during his term to smash the people. AP

Petron, Shell cut LPG prices

By Abigail L. Ho

PETRON CORP. AND PILIPINAS SHELL Petroleum Corp. slashed their cooking gas prices by 50 centavos per kilogram following the decline in the international contract price of liquefied petroleum gas.

Both oil firms implemented the price adjustment at 12:01 a.m. today.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla had earlier said he expected cooking gas prices to go down in the light of the drop in LPG prices in the international market.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the international contract price of LPG plummeted to only $589 per metric ton (MT) this month, $17 per MT lower than last month's $606 per MT price.

Bulk supplier Liquigaz was the first to implement a price cut, reducing its rates by 53 centavos per kilogram or 12:01 a.m. last Thursday. The price adjustment was inclusive of the 12 percent VAT.

"I welcome the move of Liquigaz to immediately implement a rollback in its LPG prices. We hope that all majors and other independent players will immediately follow the lead of Liquigaz," Lotilla said.

Since the start of the year, LPG prices have risen five times for a total of P3.30 a kilo, but have also gone down five times for a total of P1.60 a kilo, including VAT.

International prices remained volatile, however, Lotilla said.

The latest LPG price cutthrough pinned to 11-kg LPG cylinders is between P474.20 and P512.04.

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*US $1 = PHP.50 (subject to change)

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August 14 Draw (covers July 14 – Aug. 13 usage)
Prize: 1 winner of 130,000 Mabuhay Miles enough for 2 round trips to as far as Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
Prize: 3 winners of 50,000 Mabuhay Miles each (valid for 1 round trips to Cebu/Puerto Princesa/Kalibo/Caticlan)

October 1 Draw (covers Aug. 14 – Sept. 30 usage)
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GOVERNMENT-MILF PEACE TALKS

Canada, Sweden want to help

By Edwin O. Fernandez
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—CANADA AND Sweden have expressed a desire to help in the peace negotiations between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The peace talks are expected to resume in early August.

The MILF, in a statement issued Saturday, said a copy of a note verbale from the Canadian government addressed to both the Philippine government and MILF panels in the peace talks was forwarded to MILF chair Ebrahim Murad.

Ambassador Iqbal, MILF chief peace negotiator, said Canada intended to help in the governance aspect, while Sweden would focus in aid on the humanitarian aspect of the International Monitoring Team (which is led by Malaysia).

Malaysia, Indonesia, Libya and Brunei, all members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), had sent over their secretary to monitor the ceasefire agreement between the government and the MILF.

Since the monitors arrived two years ago, clashes between government forces and the MILF have been drastically reduced.

Iqbal, which joined the monitoring team last year, is featured in the socioeconomic aspect of the peace effort.

Iqbal had signified in statement to take part in the peace process before the government and MILF panels reached an impasse in September last year over the issue of territorial domain.

Iqbal said both the government and MILF panels would officially accept Sweden's participation.

On May 2, both panels agreed to resume talks in Kuala Lumpur to resolve issues of territory, specifically the number of villages to be included in a Bangsamoro homeland entity.

The government, however, wanted to wait until after the May 14 elections.

But after the elections, Secretary Silvestre Afable, the chief government negotiator, resigned, causing yet another snag.

Late last month, Malaysian assistant foreign minister Kamaruddin Jaafar met Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia as head of the panel replacing Afable.

Garcia, who has been accepted by the MILF leadership, was quoted as saying that Manila was very eager to resume the peace negotiations.

He said there were "some technical problems" that could lead to be addressed before both sides could return to the negotiating table.

Iqbal said the MILF was prepared for the resumption of the talks.

The MILF chief negotiator said the entry of Canada and Sweden would help "erase the cloud of doubt" hovering over the peace talks.

He said other European countries had expressed a willingness to participate in the peace process.

Iqbal said the MILF learned of their interest during informal meetings with representatives of several European countries.

Anti-debt activists hit attempt on life of chapter leader

THE ACTIVIST FREEDOM FROM Debt Coalition (FDC) yesterday condemned an assassination attempt on the leader of the group in Cebu early Friday morning.

According to FDC president Ana Maria E. Santos, assassins identified a group member as the target of the FDC Bisaya Chapter chair Ramon Isorena, as the Mandaue-a-dorsin bus it did not explode.

Governor condemned the attempt on the lives of Gerardo and Inocencio.

"Gerardo has courageously championed public interest issues and fulfills a vital role in the community. His work must continue. Hence, we urge the Arroyo administration to immediately and apprehend those who would threaten the safety and security of Gerardo and his family," said Secretary Eva Kalayaan.

She said Inocencio discovered an object on the ground floor entrance near Gerardo's room at about 7 a.m., which looked out to be an IED (improvised explosive device). The bomb exploded, hurting a third at around 2 a.m. and thought it was just a new threat to the house.

Meanwhile, CBCP vice president Archbishop Angel Lagdameo will replaced by Tarlac Bishop Florentino Cabantan. Msgr. Juanito Figuras was reelected secretary general and Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco was elected treasurer.

Cabantan, Figuras and Ongtioco, as well also be members of the Permanent Council.

Other Council members serving as regional representatives were also elected. Pat Lucena, elected were Butuan Bishop Antonio Mileza, San Fernando Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, Tuguegarao Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan, Malolos Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez, Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias, Kalookan Bishop Deogracias Iniguez, Caloocan Bishop Jesse Mercado, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco, Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma, Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, Tuguegarao Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan, Malolos Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez, Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias, Kalookan Bishop Deogracias Iniguez, Caloocan Bishop Jesse Mercado, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco, Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma, Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla

A shot on the screen door of the terrace-style house confirmed the report of the grenade and prevented it from exploding, the assessors said.

Gerardo, an Ombudsman, graduated from the University of the Philippines. He has been leading the campaign for the public recovery of Bataan Electric Company (Beco) following an Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) directive to refund its $1,000 consumers P2.09 billion for over-charges covering the period February 1996 to December 2000.

Last July FDC Cebu, with the Cebu city council, urging it to immediately implement the ERC directive. The directive, however, has been opposed by Meralco and other power distributors. The FDC consequently decided to file suit in support to takeover of Beco.

Also early last week, FDC Cebu raised objections to moves of Cebu City Mayor Jerry Treñas and the city government to privatize the Metro Cebu Water District (MWD), stressing that it would "compromise public interest," especially since the water utility was awarded with financial irregularities.

Lagdameo reelected to top CBCP post

By Jerome Aning

IMUS ARCHBISHOP ANGEL Lagdameo was reelected president of the influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

Lagdameo was reelected via an over-whelming majority of bishops from 86 dioceses in the country at the start of their two-day plenary assembly at the Ruy Paz SB Catholic Center on United Nations Avenue in Paco, Manila.

Former CBCP president and Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz told reporters he was not surprised by Lagdameo's re-election, saying CBCP presidents usually were reelected to a second term.

Under Lagdameo, the CBCP was criticized for not coming out strongly on political issues such as the "Hello, Garci" scandal that nearly toppled the Arroyo administration.

The organization, however, was vocal on other issues, such as mining, illegal gambling and, more recently, electoral fraud and the corruption behind killings.

As president of the CBCP, Lagdameo will also chair the organization's Permanent Council.

The council acts for and in behalf of the entire conference whenever the plenary assembly, which meets only twice a year, is not in session. The body may be convened by the CBCP president at any time.

The council is also mandated to work with the episcopal commissions and assign them functions of urgent character that were not taken up by the plenary.

One of the council's main functions is to prepare joint statements or pastoral letters of the Catholic hierarchy on matters decided upon by the plenary assembly, provided that requires six votes to other members for comment and approval before

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a story on page A6—"What's keeping Comelec from proclaiming winners?"—misstated that there were uncontested election results from Bicol, Lanao del Norte. Special elections in Bicol are still scheduled to be held on July 22.

***

IN THE July 5 issue, a story on page A3—"Philippines appeals to female soldiers to stop 'behaving'"—misquoted the spokesman of Senator Panfilo Lacson. It is Alan Peter, not Peter Allan.

***

IN THE same issue, a story on page A6—"Ex-exec for Stanford"—misspelled the name of a Gotesbo commissioner. His name is Florentino Rosario—not Tanseco.

Inquirer writer's ma dies

LETICIA G. DALISAY, 68, mother of Inquirer writer Marlet Salazar, died Friday at the age of 71.

She is survived, aside from Marlet, by her husband Florencio; grandchildren Mark Nicomedes and sister Nena Dalisay.

Her body lies at Manila Funeral Homes in Malate.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, July 8, 2007
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14
Rejoice, Jerusalem!

Rejoice for Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her. Be glad with her, rejoice with her, all you who mourn for her; that you may feed and take your fill at her comforting breasts, drink deep and delight in her generous abundance of her glory.

For this is what Yahweh says: I will send her peace, overflowing like a river, and her nations' wealth, running like a torrent to reach her.

And you will be nursed and carried in her arms and fondled upon her lap.

As a man comforts his mother, so will I comfort you, at the sight of this, your heart will rejoice. Like grass, your bones will flourish. For it shall be known that Yahweh's hand is with his servants, but his fury is upon his enemies.

2nd Reading: Galatians 6:14-18
Jesus the marks of Jesus

The rest, I trust, will make us take pride in anything except in the cross of Christ Jesus our Lord. Through him the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.

Let us no longer speak of the circumcised and of uncircumcised, but of a new creation. Let those who live according to this rule receive peace and mercy—they are the Israel of God. Let no one make me any longer have any pain, (because I bear the marks of Jesus on my body.

May the grace of Christ remain with us, my spiritual brothers and sisters. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20
The seventy-two disciples

The Lord appointed seventy-two other disciples and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place he himself was going to visit. And he said to them, "The harvest is rich, but the workers are few. So you must ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers to his harvest. Courage! I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Do not take any purse or bag or sandals, and do not stop to chat to anyone on the way.

"Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If a friend of peace lives there, your peace will rest on him; if not, the blessing will return to you. Stay in that house eating and drinking what they provide, for the worker deserves to be paid. Do not move from house to house.

"When they welcome you in any town, eat what they offer you. Heal the sick who are there and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

"But in any town where you are not welcomed, go to the marketplace and proclaim: 'Even the dust of your town that clings to us we wipe off and leave with you. But know and be sure that the kingdom of God had come to you.' I tell you that on the Judgment Day it will be better for Sodom than for this town."

The seventy-two disciples returned full of joy. They said, "Lord, even the demons obeyed us when we called on your name." Then Jesus replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. You see, I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the Enemy; so that nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, don't rejoice because the evil spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven."

Commentary

As in ordinary time and ordinary must be a part of our lives—remembering and taking to heart all that God has done for us, committing us and providing for us so that we flourish and know the power we have in us to do the same. We know from where we have come from and where we are going. Sanctified by the power of His cross and resurrection—we must daily strive now. Be we fearful of our marks of being a Christian? Have we ever suffered for what we believe? Have we shrunk at the sacrifices that it may? Do we dwell in peace and rest as we face others from that our boasting in the Lord is fruitlessness?

Jesus knows we may not live by ease as we believe him into the world. He sees to go lightly, still only what we need, remembering that we are the peacemakers in a world where people destroy those who do not belong to them. We bring peace as the Good News of God. And where are the fruits of peace?—healing, reconcile, sharing. Always we are to be instruments of what is pleasing—the reign of God's peace and abolishing hatred and evil. We must keep in mind that it is a privilege and an honor to be the kingdom messengers and be a part of Jesus' mission to make holy His whole world.

Scripture Reflections by Fr. Wilfredo Arce, SVD, Philippine Province of the SVD. Rev. Fr. Wilfredo Arce, SVD, Divine Word Publications, 2nd Floor, Christ the King Mission Seminary, Quezon City, 1105 Philippines. Tel. Nos. (02) 9351-2966, (02) 9351-2967, (02) 9351-2968 Fax No. (02) 9351-2969. E-mail: dwpubs@svdcongregation.org Website: http://www.svdcongregation.org/Publications/dwpubs/

China drug bust nets Pinoy

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs yesterday denied a news warning to Filipinos in China against engaging in drug trafficking following the arrest of a group there that included a Filipino.

The Philippine Embassy in Beijing, in a report to the DFA, said China's Ministry of Public Security cracked a cross-border case where drugs worth some $7.89 million were seized on June 25.

Eight people were arrested, among them a Filipino, in connection with the multinational operation.

An official of the National Narcotics Control Bureau described the successful operation as a close police cooperation between the Philippines and China over the past three years.

Such cooperation, the DFA said, resulted in the apprehension of a gang known to be a major drug source, use and trafficker in the region.

China's Supreme People's Court, meanwhile, said it would update its judicial interpretation and the penalties under its criminal law after seeing the alarming rise in cases involving illicit drugs such as methadone and ketamine, and the use of minors and pregnant women as couriers of illegal substances.

The court said it would abuse no leniency in handing down heavy penalties, including capital punishment, to people convicted of drug crimes.

It also affirmed the death penalty imposed by a lower court on seven Chinese nationals convicted of drug trafficking.

In two separate cases last month, courts in Shanghai and Guangdong imposed life terms on two Filipino narcotics caught bringing illegal drugs into China.

Philippine Embassy in Beijing home Ready urged Filipinos not to get involved in drug-trafficking in China and to be careful but they are unwittingly used as couriers by drug syndicates.

"Under the Chinese penal code, traffickers caught bringing more than 50 grams of prohibited drugs into China could be sentenced to imprisonment of 15 years to life or death," Brady said.

Laguna apartment yields shabu lab

By Nicole Puno

A ROUTINE ELECTION PROJECT RIGHT OF an apartment tenant who had failed to pay his rent led to the discovery of a shabu laboratory in Biñan, Laguna.

Senior Supt. Abe Lemon, area coordinator for the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in Region 4-A, told the Inquirer that its operatives they found the making methamphetamine hydrochloride were enough to make one ton (just under 1,000 kilos) of the illegal drug with a street value of close to P4 billion.

The ingredients themselves were worth millions and could also be used to produce fake soap, a more refined and expensive version of shabu favored by more affluent party-goers, he said.

Chief Insp. Jose Kalaigang of the Philippine National Police Regional Special Operations Group (SOG) said the police were called to serve a writ of possession on apartment No. 13 in the Ramos Apartments in Barangay San Antonio-Ibiban.

When the apartment door was opened, the sight of the ingredients greeted the police, who called in the PDEA and the National Bureau of Investigation.

Found were five big white sacks containing a white powder with blue granules, various boxes and crates, six funnels, filters and a crimp compressor.

"These are definitely drug-making equipment," Kalaigang said.

A man identified as Tony Tee Co was taken into custody by the police for questioning.

Kalaigang said a "big Taiwanese group" was suspected of being behind the laboratory. Police were hunting members of the group, he said.

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Bossi photos spark hope he's well

From page A1

er said. "Obviously, everybody hopes that that will turn out to be hard proof, but they will have to be looked at very closely by experts in the field."

It was Quezon prior Angel Calvo, a close friend of Bossi's, who sent to the Inquirer two of the four photographs that, he stressed, did not come from Bossi's captors.

"It's indeed Bossi," Calvo said of the man in the photographs. He sent the photos to the Inquirer via Bluetooth while he was at a closed-door meeting with Bossi's aid police and military officials involved in the search and rescue operations for the priest.

The pictures, apparently taken with a cell phone, show Bossi in what appeared to be a forested area, looking thin and haggard and wearing the same clothes he had on when he was snatched by gunmen in the coastal town of Payao in Zamboanga Sibugay.

FIRST PHOTO IN CAPTIVITY: "He has lost a lot of weight," say Fr. Giancarlo Bossi's fellow priests, on seeing the centered photo of the Italian priest who was kidnapped on June 10 in Zamboanga Sibugay. They were sent on Thursday to his best friend, Claretian priest Angel Calvo, in Zamboanga City. He said the photos are authentic.

Special day of prayer

Pope has announced plans to hold "a special day of intense prayer" for Bossi on Tuesday, exactly a month after his abduction.

In a July 3 letter issued from Rome, Pope Superior General Cla. Heribert Gatchi called on the order's members and supporters worldwide to pray for Bossi as well as his abductors.

"I invite all the communities of Pime in the eastern hours and missions to hold a special day of intense prayer for Father Bossi on July 10... I invite all to pray that the Lord will give Bossi abundant courage, hope and peace, that God will touch the hearts of his abductors and that they will repent," Gatchi said in his letter, published on the order's website (http://www.pime.org) and blog (http://pimephilippines.wordpress.com).

Gatchi said that Bossi's family, friends and parishioners continued to wait with hope for news of his release although no one has claimed responsibility for the abduction.

The Pime superior noted that "various initiatives and mobilizations have been held and are being planned at different levels" for Bossi's release.

"These manifestations of support and solidarity are most welcome, but let us not forget prayer: it's up in the hands of God," Gatchi said, recalling that "the unceasing prayer of the first Christian community was answered with the dispatch of an angel."

National hero in Italy

Romero and Italian Ambassador to the Philippines Ruberto Aurea Fedele arrived in Zamboanga Friday night for talks with local officials as part of efforts to secure Bossi's release. They also met with Pime members.

The Italian lawmaker said she was in Zamboanga to "get as much information" as possible about the kidnapping.

"I think [the authorities] are doing very well in secure security and peaceful release of Father Bossi," she told reporters.

"I am absolutely certain that sooner, rather than later, we would be able to achieve the successful release of Father Bossi," she said, adding that her visit had nothing to do with negotiations for a ransom.

"Obviously, the policy of the Italian government and of the Philippine government and my [other] government in the world is, of course, no talk of ransom whatsoever," Romero said.

She also said Bossi had become "a son of a national hero" in Italy. "Everyone speaks about him, and the whole country is following [developments] with trepidation and with much hope, and many prayers for his release," Romero said.

AP said Romero was expected to fly back to Italy late last night.

Proof of life for P100,000

Calvo said he received the four photos of Bossi on Friday from a man who had come from Barangay Boby Bonery in Alicia (formerly Tubaran) town, Basilan.

Earlier that day, Calvo had sent a text message to the bayonet-wielding rebel spokesman Abu Sayyaf bandits in Mshar, Calvo replied that a man from there had approached him and claimed he had "proof of life" of Bossi, but was "asking for P100,000."

He refused to identify the man.

The Inquirer called Brig. Gen. Ramiro Alvir, commander of the 1st Marine Brigade, to check if he had received information about rumors he bringing some sort of proof of life.

But Alvir said that in Basilan, there were "many people making wrong, pretending to be informants, claiming to have information, period of life in exchange for cash."

Senior Supt. Francisco Cabanlit, police chief of Zamboanga Sibugay, also said as much—that people were "pretending informers since ultimate sighting and hence nothing substantial so far."

'He appears OK'

Col. Rosendo Mitgalan, chief of Task Force Bossi, said he, too, had received reports about sightings and denials by Bossi's "bound and hedging bet."

But he said these were "simply reports, no confirmation."

At around 9:45 p.m. on Friday, Calvo told the Inquirer that he was able to get hold of photos of Bossi, which he said were sent to him via Bluetooth.

He appears OK in the pictures with a green background, which, I presume, is a tent," Calvo said.

He said he received the photos from the same man who had sent him the text.

According to this fellow, he also gave copies to the Philippine Embassy in Rome, Calvo said.

Pime regional superior Fr. Gilmael Sanchez declined to comment when asked on Friday evening if the photos could be considered proof of life.

Magalong told the Inquirer yesterday morning that they got hold of the photos on Friday night.

"But we cannot declare outright that it's Bossi in the absence of authentication from experts," Magalong said.

The photos supposedly started circulating on Friday, the day Romero arrived in Zamboanga to meet with military and police officials involved in the search and rescue operations for Bossi. With a report from Jerome Aning in Manila

The only Pinoy (or Pinay) in Tonga tilt

From page A1

because it encompasses both sexes... or, rather, it features transsexual contestants.

This year, one of the friendly competitions' hosted contestants was a Filipino (or a Filipina, as the case may be) named Jonathon Ignacio, who competed as "Erica."

Erica was entered in the three-day competition, a traditional highlight of Tonga's tourist season, as Miss Hilton's Bar and Restaurant.

On July 7, however, competition finis, who was killed in Miss Tonga's New Zealand host's team, was crowned this year's winner. Runner-up Douglas Tania in real life.

A website in Tonga described the pageant as "a famous fixture on the Tonga festival calendar because the contestants are fabulous, strong men dressed up as women. Pleasing names like 'Sweet Lolani,' they model their own bizarre, fantastic and grotesque creations, their well-built shoulders supporting fantastic fairy wings, balancing on high heels, they show off well-muscled legs, while flirting with the audience."

All the fun, however, has a serious side.

Joey Mataele, chair of the Tonga Lotto Association, said the money will be used to promote equality. It enjoyed support in Tonga, another website quoted him as saying, because family ties in the kingdom are more important than anything else.

The Miss Galaxy pageant, held annually during the Heilala Festival in July, has been a favorite event for the last five years by Air New Zealand, according to organizers, it is the only transsexual pageant the airline supports.

On the first day of the competition, the candidates were judged on their evening gowns (Erica in red and traditional Wear.

On the second day, the candidates competed in the Hat Creation and Talent portions.

Three categories crowned the finalists' night: Evening, Dance, Galaxy Pose and Interview.

P1.5-B school launches ...

From page A1

Duel said the school has a "ready-now pay later" plan where students may enroll without having to pay all the tuition upfront.

He said the tuition ranges from P50,000 to P70,000 per semester, which includes board and lodging.

He said 90 percent of the 120 students who belong in the first batch of STMA enrollees had availed themselves of student loans.

Pastor, 19, was able to enroll at STMA because of a scholarship from MTR Philippines agreement Inc. (MTR-PH), one of the biggest manning agencies for seafarers in the country.

Duel said the establishment of the school was actually the brainchild of MTR-PH, which provides seafarers by 95%.

Healthy environment

Located at the foot of scenic Mt. Makiling, the school offers a healthy environment for students.

Aside from the school's five buildings, it also has a 18-foot deep large swimming pool which allows students to have real life "at sea experience" like operating a lifeboat.

Duel said because of their commitment to develop highly skilled seafarers, the school installed state-of-the-art equipment to foster prepare their students for their shipboard training.

In addition to dummy engine rooms of ships, laboratories and classrooms required in maritime schools, STMA built a modern bridge which allows students to experience what it is like to navigate a ship.

A bridge is the "cockpit" of large sea vessels where the navigation team for the captain and his crew is located.

Situated on the third floor of the structure's building, a building built to look like a ship, the mock bridge has five projector screens which immerse the student navigators the ship.

First of its kind

Duel said their bridge simulator is the first of its kind in the country.

"In an instant, a student can navigate through the Singapore Strait or any other harbor in the world. It is as close as real bridges," he explained.

The school also has a fully operational engine room, speech laboratories, radar room, computer rooms and 12-hour power.

Designed to be a boarding school, STMA has 96 rooms which can accommodate 384 students at a time.

Unsaid unlike other schools, STMA will limit its students to only 120 per school year.

As a four-year college course, students are required to rake up three years of academic schooling and one year of shipboard training.

At present, the school offers the BS Marine Transportation course for those who want to be ship captains and BS Marine Engineering for cadets aspiring to become chief engineers.

Duel said apart from their academic load, students enrolled in STMA are also required to spend two hour reading sessions in the library.

On school days, the cadets should likewise complete seven hour duty periods.

Duel said this is to discipline the students and prepare them for the life of a seafarer.

He said STR had also ordered the construction of four ships just for the use of their students.

Job demand

A few years back, STR-M was the increasing demand for seamen as a result of the sea, as the fleet of ours are vessels worldwide.

Duel explained that the imminent lack of ship personnel was based on a five-year study done by the Baltic International Maritime Council (BIMCO), the world's biggest organization of private shipping companies.

He said for STR alone, there would be 13,000 new job offerings as the company's current fleet of 150 ships would be increased by around 120 ships.

The Inquirer that graduates of STMA are assured of jobs after graduation, he said.

Most popular

"Shipping remains to be the most popular, most practical and safest mode of transporting goods today," he said.

He Duel said the prospects for a better life for Filipino seafarers were high because "80% Ipino seamen to be the nationality of choice of foreign shipping lines." (*New Global Pinoy*, Page A2ff.)

As of 2005, Filipinos accounted for more than 25 percent of all maritime officers employed by shipping companies.

A for second were Russians who make up 6.8 percent of the total seafarers in the world.

P1.7-B remittance

Duel said records from government agencies showed that Filipino seamen remitted more than $1.7 billion last year.

He said only the demand for nurses topped seafarers among the opportunities open to Filipinos abroad.

A starting third mate (the lowest rank of merchant marine officer) receives an average monthly salary of $1,300 to $2,000.

Pastor said he still could not believe that he's only a few years away from achieving his life-long dream.

The school will be conducting entrance exams for the second batch of STMA students on Oct. 27. Interested individuals may contact the school at 810-3439/8922 and 810-3439/8933.

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Cheche makes a difference …

From page A1

longest-running investigative journalism TV show, "The Probe Team," Lazaro was critical but "consistently upholding the highest standards and professionalism and the principle and primordial integrity in the broadcast industry, where commercial ratings have time and again compromised both the content and form of television shows, including news and current affairs."

In her lecture, Lazaro discussed the challenges faced by television in the midst of "a changing landscape," and discussed how perceptions for media practitioners.

"Today surveys tell us that TV is now the main source of information, with radio and print trailing behind. It is for this reason that the media is found with more responsibility and challenges as the gatekeepers on their vow to stay alive," Lazaro said.

She said the "obsession" with ratings was one such problem. "In some cases, it has become the end-all and be-all. What competition was supposed about in two minutes, it takes us more prominence and performance indices to get an eagle eye on the numbers."

While admitting that ratings were a good indicator of who was watching, she said there was also a downside to this obsession.

"If you get caught in the vortex of a ratings tornado, you end up producing programs and adding elements just to win, and many good stories can fall by the wayside," said Lazaro.

"Why are those reconciliation hoops so alien and on our turf. While that is eminently a good way to keep the adrenaline pumping, it also presumes us to do things that, under normal circumstances, we would find to be in poor taste," she said.

Exclusives

Lazaro also commended on the factors TV found at using "exclusives."

"But you think for some of exclusives—are newscasts are punctuated by exclusives. Perhaps again it is time to review what the intrinsic value of an exclusive is and, more importantly, how our choices of exclusives affect the audiences who watch us," she said.

Lazaro cited as examples the breakup of Filipino entertainment personality Bobby Ongkingkoy and her Turkish husband Orman Behan and a "hair-pulling" incident, both of which had been highlighted in the news as "exclusives."

"It may be worthwhile to ask ourselves. What value does hair-pulling have on a news story, aside from the everything human drama of two women tearing at each other's hair?" she said, adding:

"Are we doing this just to attract our audiences, or keep up with competition? Is there a lesson to be learned?"

These "rabbit TV news stories" are exposés that "focused on the details and bizarre flares up," Lazaro said.

"Like the hair-pulling incident and the Stella Hitman story. Details were blown up and inflated for all [they were] worth. The rabbited news has become the norm," she said.

'Identifying' the audience

Remarking on the way news is being delivered on TV, Lazaro said:

"When reading the news, words are heavily punctuated in the same manner that you would announce a major catastrophe. I find it personally difficult to reconcile this mode of delivery with the basic characteristic of television. Because of the intimacy of the medium, you seem into the private spaces of your audience. In a sense, you identify with your viewers, you become one of them."

Lazaro cited ABS-CBN's recent "Iran Mo, Ifarel Mo" campaign as an example of how ordinary citizens could be on the spot sources of news.

"Using their (cell phones) as cameras, (they were) instant one-man crews and reporters in the field," she said.

But she raised concerns about the truthfulness of content from these new media. "Who gets the story and how do we check if what is spoken is true? What protection do you have under the law if someone maligns you on the Web?"

WOMAN ON TOP: Cha-Cha Lazaro is founder and driving force behind the first and longest-running investigative journalism show.

Convergence

And what are the possible effects of these new media on radio and media?

"It means that the formerly well-defined boundaries between the Big Ts—paper, radio and TV—have now blurred. The buzzword is 'convergence,'" Lazaro said, noting how newspapers are on the Web, and how radio consultants are keen on TV-style broadcasts.

The audience, once wholly captive to us, is now faced with a multiplicity of choices. That's where our current challenge lies—how to stay relevant in the face of these new options," she said.

Eventually, the bottom line is ratings, according to Lazaro.

"No matter how technologically advanced we become, it boils down to as many options within our reach, the consumer will narrow, balance, accuracy and relevance—values that are as old as the Gutenberg press—more than even the freedom of expression that we supposedly invoke as journalists. These values need to be framed into the consciousness of each one of us in the practice of journalism," she said.

A former professor herself at the UP CMC, Lazaro spent 20 years in broadcast journalism before moving on to her current position.

"It is not for me as co-victim to value what we have on the air without looking at ourselves and the manner in which we discharge our responsibilities to the industry. We should not only be critical but also encourage should focus on what is important—integrity, content and relevance," she said.

In the midst of new options, she said, the "power to set the agenda" will belong to the mainstream media. "(The) power to remain dominant depends largely on how credible, useful and valuable we make our routines to be)."

IN THE KNOW

Gawad Plaridel

SINCE JULY 2000, 9:48 UNIVERSITY of the Philippines' College of Mass Communications has presented four outstanding media practitioners with the Gawad Plaridel.

The award is named after the hero Marcelo H. del Pilar, whose name the awards were PILARI, and who was the inventor of the reformist paper La Solidaridad that helped form nationalist sentiment and democratic ideas in the 1880s.

Potential recipients of the award are nominated according to Our Plan's statute—that they media should be culturally responsible, critical and vigilant, should advocate nationalism, and true and independent.

The past awardees were RIZALIST founding chair Eugenia Duran Apostol for her contribution in print journalism, actress and campaigner of Bahaghari Hilda Koronel for contribution in film, and Ninia Tiya Bay Magsipoc for her contribution in radio.

This year's awardee, Dolly "Cha-Cha" Lazaro, was cited for her contribution in television.

The Gawad Plaridel trophy, sculpted by National Artist Napoleon Abueva, depicts Del Pilar holding a pen in his right hand and a mailing page of La Solidaridad in his left. —Rebekah Christine Ong, Interns Network

Sick boy started it all …

From page A1

Bassil initially helped out in the blood donation drives launched by Interiorians Bay Filippino after her experience with the sick boy. On July 4, 1998, she officially joined the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) as a volunteer member and embarked on her humanitarian crusade.

Initially, she was tasked to do errands for Red Cross volunteering with the PNRC. "They were discouraging me. Sabi ni ateng, 'Nag-iisa ka. Mula kang magpagawa. (They told me, 'you are alone. There is nothing you can do.) But true—did not discourage me. I went on. The more I have dedicated my life. They were discouraging me. Yet I was able to do something," she said.

Favorite pinup girl

In the heights of the Ermita Red Cross, she was the favorite pinup girl—and blood donor—of the soldiers, selling them lotions, sending them copies of dried fish and giving in boxes—to-do shows.

When the Korean War ended in 1953, she found out that the widows of the soldiers were penniless. So she went and took money to go to Manila to claim the bodies of their husbands. She decided to help them.

DZR Productions had then produced a movie titled "Korea." In a moment not of DZR, Bassil used her connections in the movie industry in Manila to hold a fund-raising event where the proceeds would be given to the war widows.

"I had the movie Hotel Avenue (in Manila) shown. I got the the Rizzo, the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Army to stage a fight. It was really a big event. I was able to raise 1 down know how much, but it was enough that I was able to give to the widows of the war," Bassil said.

Operation Blood Brother

She said she never allowed her nurses career to get in the way of her volunteer work with the PNRC. Each time her services were needed, she would readily give in and leave even while shooting a film.

"I was shooting (for the national), while shooting the movie "Indian," a 1957 classic Filipino film where she portrayed a tribal princess bride, the American Embassy sent a helicopter to pick her up to supervise a blood donation drive.

"I went through Bataal that day PNRC, with her as a member of the board of governors, was able to launch "Operation Blood Brother" in 1975.

Bassil relates: "Kasi when I went as a scenic hospital nakita ko (my) mga pasyente patiently, so sinabi ko, 'Bakit hindi kaya tayo magbigay ng dugo?' Sabi nila, 'Miss hindi namin alis pumeke kasi wala nawang dugo.' So that did it. (When I went to see outside hospital, I saw that the patients were being told to go home. So I said, 'Why are you sending them home?' They told me, 'Because, ma'am, we're out of blood.' I said, there is no more supply' So that did it.)"

Her dedication would take her to

VOLUNTEERISM PERSONIFIED: Bassil Rizal, also a movie icon, is one of the most valuable assets of the Red Cross.

anywhere there was a supply of blood.

"I talked to the commander of Clark Air Base. The Vietnam War was over by then. They did not want to give me blood. But when I explained to them, that they found out that I was a movie actress and yet I was doing all of this work, they went out of the way for me," she said.

She said the Clark episode actually gave birth to "Operation Blood Brotherhood."

Under the program, American officers and soldiers donated blood for patients in Manila hospitals. Bassil would go around Manila's hospitals to check how many patients needed blood, then would drive to Clark to get the needed supply of plasma, then drive back to Manila to deliver it to hospitals.

Strict testing due to AIDS

Her weekly routine lasted for several years. It stopped in the early 1980s, when the outbreak of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) disease.

The blood supply then came to a trickle due to the strict blood testing required. But Bassil was unfazed and worked to obtain equipment to enable the PNRC to test blood.

"When ($20 bucks) was, when I found out, I was able to get from the Australian Embassy $30,000. After a week, the French Embassy gave me a whole machine," she said, adding that these government officials helped her because had enabled the PNRC to be "well-equipped" with blood-testing machines. "In fact, the World Health Organization (WHO) handed the PNRC that it has laboratories at par with any other blood bank in the world."

Bassil said that apart from taking blood and getting blood donations, she got to open a clinical laboratory that gave the poor a chance to have their blood tested at cheaper rates.

"Initially they (PNRC) did not want to give that to me. 'There's not part of the blood laboratories,' they said. I told them, 'I have the equipment already. I bought this already. They threatened to park them up just to get rid of me, that then (PNRC) gave me the license," she said.

Apheresis center

Currently, Bassil is working on launching an apheresis donation center for the PNRC. In an apheresis donation, donors give only blood components such as platelets, plasma, red cells, white cells or a combination of these depending on the blood type.

A single apheresis donation of platelets can provide as many platelets as five whole blood donations and reduces the chances of an immune system reaction for the transfusion.

"It does not cost a lot of money. We only charge P1,2,000 per unit compared to P50,000 to P55,000 per unit of blood," Bassil said.

No to politics

Asked why she never ran for public office, Bassil said she honors "Tatayo dumyong calling para sila. You know the Red Cross is apolitical so sila, mandatory nanaya. Audiences. I can ask whatever I want."

She said that several presidents had become close to her and the PNRC, giving each donations for the procurement of equipment and facilities.

"If I'm a politician, everything will be limited. I really need to be apolitical," she stressed, adding that was the secret of her success.

She related one incident during a failed coup by agnates former President Corazon Aquino when a colonel wanted help because he had been shot.

"He told me, 'Before you help me, I let me warn you that I belong to the other side (of the previous regime). I told him, 'It does not matter. We will help whoever is in need,'" she said.

Even members of the New People's Army (NPA) have allowed her to undertake voluntary work in the areas they control.

Family acceptance

Through the years, members of her family have accepted her selfless humanitarian service. Bassil said that they may sometimes said her to accompany going on "dangerous" missions.

"I think it's a calling. I'm never afraid. Like in a coup d' etat and in a storm when an amphibian tank I was riding overturned. I thought that was it. Of course, my mother was so concerned that I don't get killed. I went over the radio. There were no cellular phones yet, but that never scared me. When I got home, my mother was crying. It just came to a point that she could see that no anymore," she said.

She said that at the height of a coup d' etat in the late 1980s, her second grandson asked her, "Do you have to go?"

"I told him, 'Somebody has to be there to help,'" she tearfully recounted, pointing out that it was at that point that children and the family have come to accept her "calling."

"It is my life. I will retire when I can no less smiles. After 37 years, my chosen to us. Among us some families do any 60 years pa lang dream is to reach 80 years of service," Bassil said, also claiming that her stay in the PGH who completely changed her life.

How sweet it is …

From page A1

Dagohoy's achievements are "precisely what the trade talks between the Philippines and the European Union are all about: (Filipino products) making headlines/sights in EU markets."

Mud would and pave roads in Bronchos in town are bone, partly on tough roads and between rice-merchants, from Bacolod to an upland farming village in La Castellana town—an area once regarded as rebel territory.

The Seventh diplomat, who listened to the farmers' proud testimonials in Dingaan with the help of an interpreter, congratulated them on running "one of the most successful" EC-supported projects in the country.

Among the speakers was Dagohoy project manager of the Negrosfed Farm Workers Association, one of the 10 groups managing collective farms in Negros Occidental and Oriental, for which Alter Trade used the EC grant. The farmers are mostly agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Alter Trade employs local agriculturists to teach the farmer hacienda workers how to "hand" their land. Decades of monoculturing and the heavy use of synthetic fertilizers—just as the sugar haciend could meet their production targets—had left the Negros soil acidic, "unable to support life," he said.

Ground to this healing process is the use of natural fertilizers and pest control solutions, as well as the gradual development of other agribusinesses.

Alter Trade farmers, for instance, have learned to make a concoction of farghing leaves, wild passion fruit, wood ash, palm and a dash of mainlands to produce "insect attractants" that douse huge assay from the vegetable plots they now also cultivate on a smaller scale.

'Zero chemicals'

The Alter Trade network includes a company that supplies the farms cost-free organic fertilizers, a mill that processes and packages the muscovado, and a marketing arm that finds local and foreign buyers for the sweet cane fruit, with the cite of the refined sugar labeled "Negros Natural." Mud have decided on "the dirty, pure taste's sugar."

But do you know how the beans or white sugar you put to your coffee is actually made?

"Farming cane juice into brown sugar requires "seven chemicals," and iron white sugar, "a total of 21 chemicals," said Israel Lagos, Dagohoy's companion in the Pedro City and a manager at the muscovado mill run by Alter Trade Manufacturing Inc. (Amci), one of the network members.

While muscovado may be more expensive per kilo than refined sugar, it has "zero chemicals," Lagohoy told the buyers on Mindoro, Cebu and Panay plant in Barangay Calumangan, Bago City.

On the white board in the office on that day were columns of numbers reflecting the plant's deliveries from January to June—812.3 tons in list, of which 9.6 percent was sent to Europe, 26 percent to Japan, 4 percent to Holland and 20 percent to Malaysia. The remaining 33.75 percent was sold locally.

Doing the math

From the 300-to-400 tons that made up the most volume of cane-to-be that the plant recorded in 1996, the increase to 812 tons is expected to be in local and foreign markets has swelled to around 1,000 tons, Ugalingan said.

One of Amci's suppliers of sugar cane, the Alter Trade-backed Sta. Rita Farmers Association (Starfa) in Barangay Dolho, has long done the math and sees the wisdom of using organic fertilizers.

According to Analyn Bonanes, an agricultural-turn overseeing the training of Starfa's 73 members, a farmer planted to sugarcane typically requires 14 bags (at 50 kilos each) of commercial fertilizers costing between P14,000 to P15,000.

The farmer needs about 22 bags of organic fertilizers, including crushed sugar cane that can be had for free, listing the remote possible of sugar mills—all costing just under P6,000.

Starfa chair Tarsue Tomawo said his organic initiative, which last year posted P1.8 million in gross earnings off the 200 hectares planted to organic sugar cane, had clearly "lifted the living conditions of ex-hacienda workers like himself.

Its members who work the collective farms are paid P100 a day for an eight-hour shift, but they receive dividends and can apply for loans to buy, say, a tricycle or motorcycle a backyard business like a piggery or a regular garden, he said.

Some 80 percent of the members have saved enough to engage in some form of extra-income outside Starfa, renovated their ramshackle homes, bought household appliances—and, like Tomawo, send children to college.

No more dead season

And other Starfa farmers no longer have to experience hunger months, or the dead season—the calendar cycle of poverty for hacienda workers when they still depended solely on the sugar industry.

In the local lingo, the term refers to the period between the planting season (starting in April) and the harvest season (September).

During that period when work and the regular weekly pay ends, the hacienda workers generally accepts any work left in the towns to keep the low family income rising.

The men become construction workers or tricycle drivers, the women take in laundry or serve as housemaids.

It is during Dingaan months that the ex-hacienda workers and loggers-turn in Negros, said Ted Lopez, executive director of the Alter Trade Foundation Inc.

"This is the condition you get when you try to plant every inch of land to sugarcane," Lopez said, recalling the period from the '50s to the '70s when sugar was the Philippines' top dollar earner and the sugar barons made mansions out of their land.

Diversified food basket

Alter Trade's long-term goal is to help develop Negros from a one-crop economy into a diversified food basket.

Negros Occidental records show that as of 1998, the province was "importing" 60 percent of its vegetables from as far as Benguet, as well as 80-90 percent of its rice requirements.

"We saw a net importer of everything but rice," said Jose Ma. Valencia, chief of staff of Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon.

But the latest figures show an improvement, with the province now almost self-sufficient in rice and in vegetable import even down to just over 50 percent, he said.

About 40 percent of the agricultural area is planted to sugarcane, with the rest being open space for rice, coconut, banana, mango, watermelon, legumes and durian.

DOT won't issue spa permit

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism yesterday said it would not issue a permit to the South Korean firm that planned to put up a spa at Taal and Lake.

"Our policy is not to issue any such permit. Because of the nature of the area as a protected area [huge zone, Taal is really just for sightseeing," Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano told reporters on the sidelines of the 17th Philippine International Convention and Exposition Center.

Durano said the Korean Conference and Exposition Corp. applies for an endorsement to put up the DOT, the application would be rejected, Hontiveros said.

"Durano are supposed to say that's temporarily to issue [the] permit," the personnel from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology do not say [illegible]."

Durano denied reports the DOT had conspired with other government agencies to grant a permit to the long-ringed P70.6-million spa project.

The only documents the DOT issued to the firm, he said, was a certification that Taal was a tourist spot.

"That's what they were asking me and it's part of our job to issue that," he said.

Durano said the DOT welcomed foreign investors who want to invest in tourism but earlier criticized the Taal tourism project.

Such a facility was relatively safe, he explained, because if it was not on the volcano is self said, unlike Taal, there was no danger of [illegible] erupting again in the near future. Jerome Aning

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Your feedback (approx 150 characters) to 2267 (Globe) or 383 (Smart)

Insecurity

EDITORIAL

SPEAK FIRST, THINK LATER: THAT SEEMS TO BE the motto of Raul Gonzalez and Norberto Gonzalez, the two most unsettling—and unsettled—members of the President's official family. The two produce an endless amount of news stories that keep the administration in the public eye—and under a cloud of public suspicion. The latest from the two concerns the so-called Human Security Act (HSA): Gonzalez says it can be used to tap the phones of journalists; Gonzalez says the law can be used to classify political enemies as terrorists.

If any proof were needed that the two are speaking without thinking, it's the admission by the administration that it is nothing the completion of the "Implementing Rules and Regulations" (IRR) of that Act. The devil, as they say, is in the details. It's bad enough that despite the law coming into effect, a massive information campaign as to its provisions has yet to take place. Even worse is that the justice secretary and the (acting) defense secretary are touting the lawmaking instruments without anyone having a chance to scrutinize either the law or the IRR.

Besides the President herself, the public face of her administration includes the members of her official family. When we speak of Cabinet secretaries being alter egos of the President, it means that what they do and say are significant by virtue of the authority and prestige conferred by their appointment. Without the confidence of the chief executive, Cabinet officials are nothing, politically and administratively speaking—they wouldn't even have their jobs. But more than that, Cabinet members are entrusted with authority because no president can do everything: there is much that must be delegated, if the business of government is to go on.

The primary duty for implementing the HSA must therefore be assigned to the Cabinet. And this is what present-tense grave cause for concern as the law's coming into effect looms. We do not think that acting Defense Secretary Gonzalez is ready to a position to do much harm, for example. It would be more prudent to assume that his appointment is merely a second stint as while his vanity. However, if our assumption is correct, it does not speak highly either of the President's criteria for minor Cabinet appointments, or her attitude toward the public as a constituential law coming into effect. She is saying, in effect, she doesn't care about public opinion, much less reasonability in those sections of the public.

As for the secretary of justice, though talk is rife that his days are numbered, we doubt that even if this were true, he'll be out of a job before the HSA goes into effect. Again, this sends the signal that on the eve of the implementation of a controversial law, the most enormous, intemperate, ridiculous secretary of justice in Philippine history will be the President's point man.

Who can blame the public, then, for the feeling of unease that insecurity the HSA is fostering? Congress, particularly the Senate, and to a much lesser extent, the House, at least took pains to reassure the public it would include safeguards to prevent the use of the law for tyrannical purposes. But Congress has done its part; the rest lies in the hands of the chief executive; the only assurance the public has is that the courts, thus far, have stood their ground in the face of executive abuses of power.

While the public may remain in faith in the courts as the ultimate bulwark of the rights and liberties of the citizenry, it knows full well that the Palace, given an inch, can take a mile. The Palace's aggressiveness in this regard finds apotheosized by the paranoia—the siege mentality—that is its defining characteristic. A mentality, we might add, that is compounded precisely by the hostility of officials such as Gonzales and Gonzalez when it comes to all the other institutions with which the executive department is supposed to work, but hardly ever does.

Under normal circumstances, our government's institutions should foster not only unity and cooperation, but also reasonableness, among each other. In the past, Cabinet secretaries would leave kept lines of communication open to all the major institutions of government and the significant sectors of the public. Before unconstitutional crackles or disagreements could get out of hand, members of the Cabinet would have been able to get the advice and opinions of the Supreme Court, of the House, the Senate, civil society, the armed forces, media, and so on. Today, so many bridges have been burned by people like Gonzalez and Gonzalez that the Palace exists in isolation—which breeds paranoia.

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Form over substance

SEPARATE OPINION

Joaquin A. Cruz

IN MY COLUMN LAST WEEK, I CONCURRED THE other legal application in judicial cases of procedural rules that prevent the enforcement of substantive rights, including those guaranteed and protected by the Bill of Rights.

I cited the case of Segun v. Eusebio, 110 SCRA 399, where three lawyers were arrested by the military during the martial-law years and the IBP and two other law organizations filed a petition for habeas corpus on their behalf. The Supreme Court ordered their temporary release in their principal counsel, Justice Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion and retired Justice Ricardo Puno. The respondents moved for reconsideration, invoking a presidential proclamation issued by Marcos against the detainees and an information for rebellion that had subsequently been filed against them before a regional trial court that had issued a warrant for their arrest. All this, it was claimed, had made the petition for habeas corpus moot and academic.

The Supreme Court agreed on the basis of Rule 102, Sec. 4 of the Rules of Court providing that "if it appears that the person alleged to be restrained of his liberty is in the custody of an officer under process issued by a court or judge or by virtue of a judgment or order issued by a court or judge, the writ must be refused or judge has jurisdiction to issue the process, render the judgment, or make the order, the writ shall not be allowed."

The majority opinion supported by 10 members of the Court declared:

"As contended by respondents, the petitioners herein has been rendered moot and academic by virtue of the filing of an information against them for Rebellion, a capital offense, before the Regional Trial Court of Davao City and the issuance of a Warrant of Arrest against them. The Supreme Court has consistently held that habeas corpus is to inquire into the legality of one's detention. Now that the detained were not incommunicado or by virtue of a judicial order in relation to criminal cases subsequently filed against them before the Regional Trial Court of Davao City, the custody of habeas corpus no longer lies. The writ had served its purpose."

Justices Claudio Teehankee, Hermogenes Concepcion, Vicente Abad Santos and Leo Pecson dissented. I still count here the dissenting opinion of Justice Abad Santos as cogent. It reiterates in any supposition fact result for the writ of habeas corpus to be "the most important of the laws and guarantees of groundless rules whereby untold millions against substantive rights, particularly the right to be heard under due process clause.

Justice Abad Santos, one of my professors in the UP College of Law and later my colleague at the Free Division of the Supreme Court, said:

"It was because rules said that the life of the law has not been logic; it has been experience. Thus the decision law was rendered and highly human. Continually, however, it evolved and here we say based by experience. The development of the law did not stop there. The Roman praetorian law enlarged, supplemented and eventually law which had become outcrop and equal in scope. Finally common law produced equity jurisprudence. It is learned out of legal and theoretical rules and decisions to all and even overrule common and create law in order to protect rights and redress the

tion fixed by substantive law.

"The statutory option appeals to the mind for it appears to be logically constructed. It rests heavily on the letter of the law. Upon the other hand, the dissenting opinion of Justice Teehankee speaks to his article of faith appeals to the mind and the heart for it is based not on the letter but on equity also."

I believe that Justice Teehankee's opinion better serves the ends of justice and I gladly subscribe to it. I also subscribe to Justice Concepcion's separate opinion.

As a member of the Supreme Court, I had on several occasions recognized the importance of substantive procedures for the orderly adjudication of substantive rights by the courts of justice. Litigations are often all too lukewarm towards suits no holds barred but redbird disconsolate of conflicting positions.

Even so, I had also deplored the practice of courts, including the Supreme Court, to apply technicalities so as to resolve but are offending the political departments or, worse, to escape responsibility or decide serious constitutional questions expressly requiring their attention. A case in point is Garcia v. De Villa, 136 SCRA 525, where the Supreme Court refused to rule directly on the legality of the "truce" because it had not been timed by the alleged violation but by time-crisis leaders who, the Court said, were not the proper parties.

I argued that where a house is on fire, it is not only the owner who can call the firemen but also the neighbors. It is not necessary that the fire may spread. So too where to Constitution is violated and the liberty of all citizens is diminished, making every one of them a proper party. But my objection was to avoid ignored by my colleagues (except Justice Abraham F. Sarmiento) who, like Justice Abad Santos, were oblivious to the extent, title of form over substance.

On the road

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU SAY IN ILOCANO "The traffic is slow"?

Answer: Dikaguyod (dik as read)

• • •

In today's Gospel (Lk. 10, 1-9), Jesus sends off His disciples on a mission, with special instructions on how they are to carry themselves on the road. But a closer look at the "marching orders" of Jesus shows that, in fact, they were not to carry themselves but God on the road. Where what do you carry on the road?

• • •

Remember a year of old by the name St. Christopher? The literal meaning of Christopher is "carrier of Christ" from the Latin words Christus (Christ) and ferre (to carry). Following the line, what would you name be? Bonnyphor? Bonnyphor? Feddyphor? Vicephor? Who can say depends a lot on whatever goods or garbage you carry on the road of life.

• • •

Notice how our Filipinos identify a person by what he carries or peddles in this life! Thus, when we call a fisher woman we call her Corazon (Aquino), I wonder how people will call us, based on what we carry in this life?

• • •

Based on today's Gospel, we are instructed to travel light on the road. We are to carry no provisions, "no money, no sack, no sandals." You and I know how burdensome it is when we travel with heavy and excess luggage. The less we weight more when we know we are exercising such as prohibited items, because along with exhaustion comes the fear of being fined or denied entry at the port of destination. Remember, at terrorist's gate, the immigration and customs officers there are leaners, offensive and decisive.

• • •

Yet, we instructed to carry God on the road. "Brave are people whose hands are full inside

life, but their hearts are empty, because they carry themselves, not God. We must learn to unload our personal agenda, our plans, our schedules, and put the Kingdom of God as our priority on the road. If you are like an ecstatic and joyful disciple, you will be truly empty and disappointed as you travel on.

• • •

Furthermore, we are commanded by Jesus to travel together on the road. We are to go "in pairs," and carry out the mission together. We are to bring us a team the message of peace and proclaim the healing power of God among sinners. Be go supervisors and celebrities on the road. There's only one Supervisor. It is the Lord whom we serve.

• • •

Finally, we are instructed by Jesus to be joyful on the road. We are gifted to do our missionary tasks joyfully. Let our presence joy is that our "names are written in heaven," "For something to know that there is someone and rescued not only on the road but also at the end of the road. One thing we must learn as we travel on is that our hands must unload, and our hearts must unload. Our hands must work, and our hands must share. On the same coins, our hearts must be recharged by community and in prayer. Check your hands today if they are unused, and closed. Check your heart today if it is already "love lost" or fully discharged.

• • •

There's a little girl on the road, and she is doing her mission for the Lord and Mama Mary in every simple humble and joyful way. Lately,

people have been "slain in the Spirit" and have been healed by 14-year-old Pauma Joanna from Kawit, Cavite. Even children "declare" to the Lord, and write up to tell their dreams and visions of being with the Child Jesus or with Mama Mary. Ate (see June 5, Pauma received the mark of a heart on her breast by, according to Pauma—the Blessed Mother told her that she's heart mark on her lip will always be there so that she will always speak messages of peace, hope and love. Yes, a lot of wonderful things happen to the Lord's children on the road.

• • •

Speaking of roads, we're going to Tubak tomorrow for a family recollection to be held at the Tubak Pastoral Center in Ilocano. Tubak City 1 to 7 p.m. It is part of our evolving the earth by the Lord, doing errands for our God.

• • •

Diane is the teacher Carmen Pascua, a teacher of St. Theresa's College, Quezon City for 33 years, but gone back to the Heavenly Father. She can never begin to imagine how many young people this simple teacher has guided and helped on the road, not on to encounter the extraordinary graces and blessings she gained for others in her four-with cancer about five years ago. Till the end of the road, she faithfully did her mission.

Praying that at the end of our earthly road, on the doorstep of eternity, we, like her, with humility and gratitude, will say to the Lord: "Mission accomplished."

• • •

"Cinderella Ride" is a presentation by Repertory Philippinas, to be shown on Aug. 18, 2007, 10 a.m. at Onstage Theatre, Greenbelt. Mahal for the benefits of Preemie Philippines. For inquiries, please call 9123911, 5226877.

• • •

A testament with the Lord

Lord, remind me to travel light, to travel not alone, and to travel with joy on the road. Amen.

Means and ends

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Hungyanhan

HIS ANTONIO TRILLANES IV FORMALLY TOOK his oath of office before a hungover clique in Cubicomm City a week ago. That he chose to swear before the homeless electoral officer in the country's smallest province of Batanes could be viewed by some as a measure of his conviction that he owed his election to the great multitude who are underserved and underprivileged.

Trillanes, for my part, like every believer he could take his case, argues that already threatened him by his unwelcome past. Who is this arrogant upstart who has no progress of government, no vision, no worthy accomplishment to compile but a string of failed coups and a stint in the Marahuyo country, so they do not only extend Opinion survivors withheld him as "a boy with many toys." As pseudo hero, "and "a typical neighborhood bully do not personal function "Don Baptized boy Vishal Cuisia's "Hijo."

Thus, Trillanes does not have the credentials of the dissent, the intellectual depth of Hero M. Reyes, the brilliance of Justin E. Salonga, the heroism of Jimmy Aquino, or the creativity of Gregorio Honasan. He is not even the "it" he is celebrated. An unanswered, oblivious of some not-so-great documents in this regard body. All that was projected of him was his audacity in leading little more without during the Oakwood mutiny.

If the election were held right after that mess in 2003, I doubt if he would have obtained more votes than Jennifer Carreon did. He was caught the bread villain in a bizarre strategy to raise the ratings of the then-ratings-challenged network. He was caught in farce and in grace, and in the President's pajamas (things were cooked into the president of "choosing, living and avoiding." Trillanes grew to prominence and to esteem. Now he is not to topple an unpopular President Macapagal-Arroyo but the Constitution and the entire establishment did not matter anymore. He became the visible symbol of his people's anger.

Trillanes, the person. And so, more than 11 million voters voted him to be Senator. He won them fame, not so much for the failed mutiny he led or for the negotiations he embodied. In fact, they voted unanimously in the push supported him now he is in the Senate. He is neighbor to others they were willing him. "He agree with you much but not with your means. We shall make you a part of the democratic establishment, so you can, through legal means, pursue your lofty aims as Minister of Home relocation, abuse and more ten killings."

I shall not discuss here whether Trillanes is guilty of the crimes attributed to him. I do not know to see what have been established to prove his innocence of the charges. A judgment is arrived at only after the judge is convinced that the facts proven by the prosecution had (at last) and established the crime charged. Sometimes, this is established may prove a wrong, but if the judge is convinced beyond reasonable doubt by one successfully included thereto, an acquittal may be inevitable.

Whether guilty or not, Trillanes stands call personally go through the labyrinths of the rule of law. He should neither ask for nor be granted any special favors. Otherwise, he would be remiss in the observance of the democratic processes that he swore to obey when he took his oath of office. Perseverance in the times of decline like this is his concern now and not his promise.

Trillanes, the future. Verily, by taking his oath of office, he solemnly promised to defend and protect the Constitution and to uphold the rule of law. By serving his constituents, he has come to remind them of their duties and responsibilities. Hence, he can no longer justify the use of human and pain in the means to change matters—as were just the Samuel Pearces of the Philippines, the immediate beneficiary of his remarks. He is now bound by his oath sought obligations to use legitimate means to attain noble objectives.

The process shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws." So says the first and most basic guarantee of the Bill of Rights. Stress should be on "due process." In fact, the crucible of a vigilant judiciary is the assurance of due process before anyone is detained, before property is seized, and before employment may be terminated.

The past did not bring about the reforms that Trillanes had sought through unconventional methods. The present has given him the opposite: a wide range of legal and constitutional means to change the people's use of the Commitment and the laws Posing haven't the luster. Will he take advantage of the unusual opportunities given him by our people to pursue his ends within the proper channels? Perhaps it is not time for this. But time soon lets vindication late.

In our constitutional structure, the legislature and executive departments are mandated to protect the State from internal and external attacks, to promote the general welfare, and to safeguard the properties of our people. The military's endeavor that these legislative-executive goals are pursued only through legislative means. In other cases, no fostering of private partners, no violations of individual liberties. Trillanes is primarily under the rule of law there is a happy blending of means and ends.

Indeed, means are to important ends. This is the great lesson to history. Hitler and Stalin by caused their own downfall. Ben Chan fall, Marcos and Quezon caused their ends. Means and ends, at the old song goes, go together like love and marriage, like horse and carriage.

Comments are welcome at thephantom@gmail.com

Girls in trains

THREE ARE THREE WAYS TO CLIMB THE QUEZON AVENUE flyover (the Elliott Avenue one unless you take the other one, all three were unsafe to walking endless acres of stairs. I go up across McDonald's, past the two overwhelming FX bike to Quezon and down the other side, hoping girl who lacks chicken or sex offer of equal safe extension-cream cone.

Once there, you climb, collect swimming, up the more of an chain-not broken.

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

escalator, pass signs depicted on the wall of the new building. There are billboards, please compose chicanes, ladies-and-other pursuers of fun, lots yellow smells, and running taboo.

Fourteen for those who seek a career in the call center industry. Learn how to speak American—or call Americans? Apply now! There's a dentist in the street, a 1-2-3-11 tapping of lean heels, pink flip-flops and guitar carriers; an excitement dressed by clothing stations. When you hit the top, high above the slow crawl of oncoming traffic, a line makes you two riders, where a broken pair of expensive top bags with sudden strides. From there, it's uncharacterized. Make the road to the other side, and you're on the train. If you're lucky enough cards left for a reason only push against the metal railing, and realize down to the hollow stares at the city and at the platform.

A year ago, when they first explained off the new tracks guard standing on a blue box and promises that you. claimed that the fare cuts were only for "females, senior citizens and handicapped." I complained to only with the men. I'm all for offering special privileges for the elderly and the handicapped, as well as those handicap-dump small children. But in the age of Dumb and economics climbing women, yes to mention a female President who has proven she has just as much bulletheaded meanness as all those of her male predecessors, that sort of legislated chivalry is not only unfair.

Every time I shovel myself into the metro station, I thought of it as a silent protest against segregation. Sometimes, it was to no close, on the occasions I had to endure as the guards that I wasn't allowed, that I deliberately chose to swipe to the back exit, and that yes, I would throw an elbow into a female's face to get to the train. I'm not proud of it, but morning crowds—when can I, say, I was a 20-year-old college kid who has to get to class. It took a full month when I ended that boyish dignity was in, I was departing men of space, sizes and origins.

So I put back my new indignation and swapped myself to the women's section. Four days ago, I caught the MRT at the Ayala stop. Tall. The women flooded the car, enough to take up both sides in the platform, the doors shut open, and a pregnant woman slipped in. She was thin, with bows across it making the metal pole at the other end of the aisle. When I stood up to offer my seat, I had to walk over to the other side of the train to tap her on the shoulder. She smiled, moved toward the seat I vacated, but as a rush-hour train rolled into the station, the doors opened and the passengers rushed down. She was bumped and bruised and hoped some ladies flag into the empty blue area. Those she looked at the pregnant woman, looked to me, then looked away and pretended to sleep.

The complaint women on the stopped. I think she was used to it. Then the doors slid open again to let in another flood of students. A lost sight of the girl, but not of a temper. And it was all it took to see Quezon Avenue, just a single car of the crammed. Wed carrying contingent while had entered three more from The fourteen stood up to let the pregnant woman sit. I felt the same way those Olympic probably felt when workers are showering outside the temple doors Hosted.

It used to be that when a man stood up to offer a woman his seat, it was because the woman he was standing up for might be his mother, his sister, his wife, and that by standing up, perhaps somewhere, someone, some man might stand up for his own mother, sister or wife. In this silly women-don't stand up for other women, because they reject the themselves as the pregnant woman barely able to keep her balance.

The standards for manners have evolved, of course. It's polite to no longer gender-based; so manners differ how one person to another. I like to think, however, that manners are something like human rights. Inasmuch as culture is responsible, there are certain non-negotiables, like vomit, like genocide, like child molestation. When a woman is standing in the train, women or men, with the weight of being home from a shopping spree, you stand up for this old man or woman, for the handicapped boy, for the pregnant mother. Boredom, for example, look up at her, then shove employment your your seat, and potential son to one has. The privilege of nonexistence is a wonderful thing in a world of commute, and self-pleasure and speech does privileges, however, those are expected to collaborate. The freedom to stay may not mean like a big deal, but if you don't stand up for the pregnant woman, you're bound to no hurt when the man you can you on the side mirror, or when the child is kidnapped before your eyes.

I thought that the women I was writing the column was an digression, some sort of righteous angst. I changed my mind when, a few days after the piece ran, I got a call from a man. He was a father, a husband, and he was calling to say he was sorry. I didn't speak up, why I didn't ask one of the gallant male way for the pregnant woman. And that's when I realized the reason I had to write this was to make up for that, to apologize, in a way, for being afraid to look the bear and make a scene, or to simply not knowing better.

I like to think those girls who sat with their eyes on their Adidas and their iPods would do something, only that they didn't know how, or if they should. The last big girl with her leopard print bag will always stay in my head as someone whom I would love to meet in a back alley somewhere. As for me, maybe they were likewise, suddenly paranoiac, but because of some sort of misplaced shyness, in lack of knowledge, become incapable of common decency.

So I write this article, indignation as defined, most attempt to make up to a woman with chin stretch-sweating a flowered shirt. I want her to know that yesterday, I stood up for an old lady with a grandson, and that other me, a girl in a matching uniform stood up for someone's mother.

For comments, just one: AIM HERE, texts, spit, location, message them send at 2Girls for Globe Sun and 2Girls for Smart. E-mail at rebel.angel@gmail.com

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Explaining the unexplainable

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EVEN FOR A POPULACE JADED TO REPORTS of gruesome crimes and shocking crimes, the story of the final hours and death of a 5-year-old girl who was abducted in a mall and later turned up dead in a creek has left psychologists baffling. Any of the evil can be attributed to the lure that has been biologically hotter but a found in her shelter love and death.

The child, Cherry Pie Marie Love Pamela Ann, 23, entering the mall at 8:34 p.m. of June 28 with two children and the children's mother, her cousin, Jennifer Ann, at 9:02 p.m., the cousin's single Kawasaki motorcycle was found in the parking lot. Cherry Pie's body was found a few minutes later, alone.

The girl's disappearance took a toll on TV news when the media sounded the alarm. After her body was found, the media reported that she died of a child's death in the pool. The girl's body had one arm wounded to the chest. One claimed eyes were left the mother's hand. Another report she died after being her daughter TV cameras that showed her mother's face opening the car called and a dog, the mother to confirm if indeed it was her daughter. Heart-wrenching, indeed, was the young mother's sobbing in the aforesaid car of the room, saying she was glad that she was "together" with her girl and begging authorities to help find her.

Senseless police and their main suspect was the 5-year-old's father and some cohorts, given was our country's opinion that the culprit could only be the mother. Or, the father and the kid have committing outside of his children only by extrajudicial force, and his paper reported that Sosa, the girl's father, was "together" with his girl on the day everything, which perhaps could be taken to mean of his culpability in the girl's death.

PARENTS killing their own children is no longer new or especially earthshaking. Media killed her own children to protect them from the wrath of their father Jason. In many recent memory are two mothers in the United States who killed their children as a way to get appeal a fetus, then spun on TV to plead with the "full support" to release her with public the other she would not have to shoot their husbands due to the

pain of your current depression. Most recently, a professional wrestler, allegedly, unlike his the effects of depression caused by steroids, killed his wife and child and then hanged himself. So all the local news story a few years back when an unemployed father led his children poisoned food because he could no longer stand their constant cries of hunger.

This is child abuse and violence against children taken to the extreme. It is the unthinkable and the unimaginable—unless you are the killer and really. People often say such parents are "monsters" devouring their young, explaining away their own incomprehension by insisting that these child killers must be "mad," "crazy," "possessed by the devil," "high on drugs" or "in the throes of depression." And yet, even these very explanations cannot rationalize a father taking his child as a parent in a custody dispute, then letting her prey where the child remains not to surround overpowering.

Why do parents turn on their children? Filipino lawyers drive them to violence one of the smallest and most vulnerable members in their family? And would one stand on the sandpaper to answer such a crime?

* * *

DO "PROTECTIVE" Women and Children: A Brief look on Community-based Responses to Violence," authors Ma. de Leon Pefia and Dr. Regina Belo Paz-Espanto cite several reasons for child abuse and violence.

Child abuse, they say, is rooted in "the use of power and authority ... where the perpetrator sees his/her powerful and dominant position in the family to threaten a small even the children. Being young and dependent on their parents for all of their basic needs, the children accept a subordinate position in the family, making them vulnerable to abusive family members.

Also considered is the myth in the link between wife or partner abuse and child abuse. Belief and hopeful, citing numerous studies, here and abroad, say there is "no to 40 percent overlap between wife abuse and child abuse." Battered wife-mothers and children who experience violence at home themselves." In other words, nearly half of children who see their mothers being abused are victims of abuse themselves.

There is also mounting evidence that rapes by the same using excuses between more men and boys against who and by killing their children, by the acts of so-called "good" men who are "model" citizens in many cases ago, psychologist pointed to the subordinate position of the underage Japanese housewife, who lives a lonely, isolated existence with her workaholic husband who is more for money than for his wife and rarely interacting with her children. When she finds she is not doing her job right, such as not living up with the right "image" of mothers in her child's school or even "neighborhood," she is driven to "lose face" by her failure with her overalls, taking away her child as the most primary love has to be afraid.

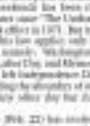
* * *

IF OUR risk of generalizing, we would say that many men abuse or kill their children in a misguided of their desire to establish authority and control in the family; while some women who stay in abusive homes do so in order to spare their from a bleak future.

Either way, it is still violence and killing of so many unpredictable.

We also have to get the learned shrink at a particular personal crime and, in a community, serve as various solutions to prevent or at least mitigate the occurrence of violence and child abuse, but as a society pay for our indifference, for as little one suspects come "developed" into adults, we will have no damage women and children's sense of safety and well-being and their potentials like contributing productively to our society.

The politics of holidays



PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

SOME BOYS ARE SACRED TO INDIVIDUALS, couples, families, unions and religious communities. We call them holidays. On such days, people are supposed to remember, and to act on, the sacred associations it evokes. They may be associations from a deprived or happy childhood, a shared life, a heroic and difficult struggle, or a recurring moment of redemption and renewal. Holidays are full of sacred days, like birthdays, anniversaries, and weddings, anniversaries, Independence Day and Christmas Day. Others follow the cosmic rhythm of the seasons—like the holy days of Lent in the Christian calendar or Ramadan.

By their nature, holidays are secret occasions; they are precisely meant to interrupt the routine carved by work in our daily lives. They are occasions joyous, memory-laden evening spent for family, or celebrations of memories and the sacred emotional or the tragic holiday breaks our daily in order to rest.

And so it baffles me no end that our political leaders have felt it necessary to "rationalize" our holidays. Last year, in the name of, we, the 13th Congress, while setting aside bills of patriotic urgency like the bill to change condolences, meticulously pass only this way "An Act Rationalizing the Celebration of National Holidays." This bill, when enacting, as President Gloria Arroyo would create national holidays like Independence Day (June 12), Labor Day (May 1), Eidul Fitr (Nov. 30), and Bonifacio Day (Nov. 30) movable. They will henceforth be observed on the Monday immediately preceding the date of the holiday under such celebratory memorandum of the weekend.

The word "rationalization" has been so misused by this government that one no longer knows what the word usually means. What does it mean to rationalize a holiday? Is it to make it fit to equal some, rationalization refers to the selection of the most efficient means to achieve a certain goal. If commemoration is the goal, how does removing a national holiday to a weekend equal that followed to the wishes of celebrate entry into limits) can make be a source of pride. Indeed, even Lotta America is divided on the significance of this event. While Spaniards like Cuba and Mexico celebrate Oct. 12 as "Dia de la raza" (Day of the race), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela applies it as "Dia de la Resistencia indigena" (Day of indigenous resistance). It is not hallowed to imagine that, one day, Independence Day could be taken out of the list of US holidays.

Labor Day in the United States is, of course, not the same as May Day elsewhere in the world. It has always been set on the first Monday of September since 1894. It is perhaps the only holiday in the world's working days. On the other hand, Memorial Day, moved from May 30 to the last Monday in May, honors those who died in military service in the United States. It is unsure at best, and it is not a holiday for the dead in the United States. Instead, it is a separate American Day which is explicitly devoted to honoring the veterans of past wars. Originally celebrated on May 30, 1868, the day was moved to the second Monday in November after World War I to honor those who died in all wars and commemorate the armistice that ended the conflict. This explains the name of Veterans Day (Nov. 11) in the United States.

Other countries celebrate their holidays in their own way. Some celebrate the birthdays of their leaders, while others celebrate the anniversaries of their independence. Some celebrate religious holidays, while others celebrate secular holidays. Some celebrate holidays that are fixed, while others celebrate holidays that are movable. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the solar calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the lunar calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Gregorian calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the Julian calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Hebrew calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the Islamic calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Chinese calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the Hindu calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Buddhist calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the Jewish calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Christian calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the Muslim calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Sikh calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the Jain calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Zoroastrian calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the Baha'i calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Shinto calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the Taoist calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Confucian calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the Legalist calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Mohist calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the Yin-Yang calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Five Elements calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the Eight Trigrams calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Sixty-Four Hexagrams calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the Three Treasures calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Five Precepts calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the Eight Precepts calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Ten Commandments calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the Four Noble Truths calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Eightfold Path calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the Twelve Nidanas calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Four Noble Truths calendar, while others celebrate holidays that are based on the Eightfold Path calendar. Some celebrate holidays that are based on the Twelve Nidanas

TALK of the TOWN

Cultivating Jatropha

HIGH CRUDE OIL PRICES AND GLOBAL WARMING ARE PUSHING GOVERNments and businesses to develop biofuels—alternative fuels from renewable sources like crops, plant fiber, trees, poultry litter, animal waste and the biodegradable component of solid waste.

Biofuels include bioethanol, biodiesel and fuels from biomass. Bioethanol is a light alcohol produced by fermenting starch or sugar from sugarcane, corn, cassava and sugar beets. Biodiesel is fuel extracted from plant oils like jatropha, palm, soy, rapeseed and coconut.

Signed into law in January, the Biofuels Act, or Republic Act No. 9367, mandates the use of biofuels in the Philippines. The law requires that a minimum of 1 percent of biodiesel blend be sold within three months of its effectivity and at least 2 percent within two years.

To meet the demand for biodiesel, the government through the Philippine National Oil Co.-Alternative Fuels Corp. is setting jatropha nurseries and plantations. PNOC-AFC is planning to build a refinery or process oil extracted from jatropha and a petrochemical complex in Limay, Bataan to produce biodegradable polyurethane from the plant.

Jatropha curcas is seen as a promising plant for making biofuel because it can grow on poor land and it is less likely to displace food crops.

Q. What is jatropha?

A. Jatropha, commonly known as physic or purging nut, is a member of the euphorbia family. It is a coarse, succulent shrub that has grayish leaves with a smooth and waxlike surface. Leaves are lobed and with 4 to 6 ovate lobes, each with a length of up to 5 inches. It originated in the tropical Americas and West Indies.

Jatropha comes from the Greek words: *iatros* (doctor) and *trophe* (nutrition). It belongs to the family Euphorbiaceae.

It likewise locally accede takes (others call it tagumbay, tuba-tuba, kalumay, kasla and sangon-sangon).

Q. Are there different types of jatropha?

A. The genus jatropha has 175 species distributed throughout the world. Twelve species can be found in India.

Q. What type of weather is ideal for jatropha?

A. Jatropha grows in tropical and subtropical regions. It is drought-resistant.

Q. What type of soil is ideal for jatropha?

A. Jatropha can be planted in any kind of soil. It can grow even in highly degraded and marginal areas. However, low yields were also recorded in low-fertility farms while it can be grown with higher yields in high-rainfall or irrigated areas.

Q. What are the uses of jatropha?

A. Jatropha is used as purgative, pesticide soap and fuel oil for lighting and cooking.

Because of its strong root system, jatropha can grow almost everywhere. It can hold water and prevent soil erosion. It can be used, too, as a live fence for protection of agricultural fields from damage by livestock. It is a versatile plant, as it can also be used for reforestation and soil rehabilitation, and to prevent rapid erosion.

In the Philippines, it is mainly used

Across the NATION

Panlilio collects ₱5M in quarry taxes

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE SPECIAL COMmittee formed by Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio has collected more than P5 million in sand taxes in the first five days that the Catholic priest has been in office.

Vice Gov. Jennifer Guiao, who took on a watchdog role against graft at the provincial capitol, said the income earned under Panlilio confirmed that the "potentials [of the quarry industry] are big."

"That is nothing [to compa-re-son-ya], Guiao said.

The P5-million collection is 17.18 percent of the P29.1 million generated by the administration of Justice Gov. Mark Lapid for the whole of 2006, an income in excess of reported reports on quarry income showed.

It was higher than the P3.19 million collected from January to February this year.

The current collection represented an average of 3,333 truckloads of sand a day more than the 166 truckloads reported by the previous administration.

If the trend continues, last year's income could be raised in a month's time, Panlilio said.

It appears clear by the business shown that if the capitol makes an average of P20 million monthly, it could surpass the P106.4 million collected in 2005 by the National Economic Development Corp. of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

New system

Panlilio attributed the increase in collection to a new system than the provincial government had adopted starting Monday to help rid the system of graft-prone policies.

The system was implemented on the strength of the Sept. 2006 anti-obstruction orders and endorsed by a team of four former administrative who volunteered for the job.

The EOs required the haulers to pay the P500 tax per truckload to the provincial treasurer's office before the quarry's operations established by the mandates.

Panlilio replaced 66 capitol employees and assigned new personnel at checkpoints to verify the authenticity of receipts shown by haulers as they pass them.

The governor said local governments in areas where the sand have been handed would receive their share of the quarry income at the end of July.

Of the P500 tax, P350 would be distributed on a 50-30-40 percentage sharing by the province, towns and barangays, respectively. The capitol would keep the other P150 to serve operational expenses.

Panlilio said the tax law here is the only one in the country proposed to guard the MGIC as it shall try to save the industry and collect the taxes.

"If our system is found to be effective, we are going to propose it until it gets better and better," he told the barons in a phone interview.

Lapid's rule

Asked if his administration would pursue new cases against him, Bernard "Lito" Lapid said he's not. Black, for the low collections they made during their term in the last 11 years, Panlilio said: "We have not discussed that matter yet. For now, we just collect and protect the interest of the Kapampangans over this public resource."

Sand became more beautiful in Pampanga after Mt. Pinatubo spewed out sand during its 1991 eruptions.

But the Lapids have "a lot of explaining to do," Guiao said.

"We need to follow up on the graft cases against the Lapids so we are protect the province's future income from quarry and non-metallic mines is [not] used only for [their] interests," he said.

Provincial treasurer Brigel Talisay could not be reached on Saturday to explain the low collections in the last six years and the underlying reasons.

The youngest Lapid and Talisay were named respondents in a graft case that Guiao filed at the Office of the Ombudsman before the May 14 elections.

FOREIGN AID
US Mars personnel work at a site where houses are being built by the US Mars for roadside survivors on the lower slopes of Mayon volcano in Legazpi. The houses were built by a US Mary team as part of a $5 million donation by the US government to rehabilitate areas around Mayon that were devastated by typhoons and volcanic mudslides and claimed about 1,200 lives in November 2006.

BFAR says no shortage of tuna in GenSan

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) denied the reported shortage of small tuna supply here.

Theresa Custodio, of the BFAR provincial office, said the response that they were issuing "many" export permits daily for tuna canning factories and fishing firms here.

She, however, claimed, is an indication that canning plants here are normally operating.

Earlier, Marino Fernandez, manager of Ocean canning firm here, claimed that the operations of tuna processing plants here were reduced to about 50 percent due to shortage in supply of juvenile tuna.

Juvenile tuna are the ones used by tuna canneries here in making sardines.

Fernandez attributed the shortage to global warming.

In a mobile phone interview with Inquirer, he said the non-renewal by the Indonesian government of the bilateral fishing agreement with the Philippines exacerbated the problem.

He said Indonesian fleets has been very strict and closely watching the Indonesian territorial waters, preventing any poachers.

Italy has said Indonesian vessels have been the traditional fishing grounds of fishermen especially tuna catchers from this city.

Fernandez claimed that if within a week's time there would be no rain, he will be forced to temporarily close down Ocean Canning.

Rajul Bahria, of Mindoro Tuna International, one of the leading canned tuna manufacturers in the country, denied the reported shortage in juvenile tuna.

Bahria claimed reliance Tuna has no encountered problems in finding tuna for its canning operations.

He further claimed that since the company started operating in 2004, its annual growth rate has been about 25 percent per year.

"A steady growth is not taken and profits [with the ghosts and doom scenario frequently cited in news reports," Bahria said in his e-mail to the Inquirer.

According to Bahria, in the first quarter of the current year, Reliance Tuna operated at a 76 percent capacity, much higher than last year's 67 percent.

This figure, he said, increased in the succeeding quarter, from 64 percent last year to 91 percent this year. Aquilino Z. Zuzuta, Inquirer Mindanao

Army sues Left leaders for bringing kids to street rallies

By Nestor B Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A SPOKESPERSON of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Western Visayas has filed a complaint at the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) against Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chair Jose Maria Sison and leaders of militant groups here for bringing children to protest rallies.

In a two-page complaint filed before the CHR yesterday, Capt. Lowen Ed Marquez, chief of the AFP's Civil Relations Service in Western Visayas, alleged that militant groups Gabriela, Bayang Magiting Iloilo (BMI) and the party-list group Bayan Muna violated the rights of children under Republic Act No. 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act) and Presidential Decree No. 603 (The Child and Youth Welfare Code of the Philippines).

Aside from Sison, named respondents were Bayo Bocpe, spokesperson of Bayang Magiting Alyansang Makabansang (Bayan) in Bacay; Wendivelle Dobble, BMI-Bacay spokesperson and Lucy Francisco, regional coordinator of the Gabriela Women's Party.

Marquez claimed that he saw around 100 children age 3-15 years old holding streamers and placards "under the scorching heat of the sun" during the Labor Day protest rallies held at the Iloilo provincial capitol on May 1. The children, among around 2,000 protesters that joined the rally and marched to the main streets of the city.

A CHILD plays on empty chairs laid on for a political rally in Makati City in some areas, the Army said children were being brought to protest rallies as participants.

In attached with his complaint pictures, news clippings and affidavits from two of the children attending the rally.

Marquez said that he included them, who is six to seven in the Netherlands, because the militant groups are among the CPP-NPA-NDF's (New People's Army) front organizations.

He said protest rallies are "not a good environment" for children below 18 years old because these are usually composing of grassroots who might be victims of violence.

"They are developing potential recruits in the leftist movement," Marquez told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

He said he did not want to pressure the children, or the parents, but to stop the practice of bringing them to protest rallies.

Militant groups denounced Marquez and denied that they were using the children as to send the rallies.

"They parents bring them in the rallies because no one is left at home to tend for them. We do not force them and we ensure that they are safe and secure and they are ready to undertand the issues," said Francisco in a telephone interview.

Francisco pointed out that under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children, children have the right to express themselves and peacefully assemble for redress of grievances.

"The parents of these children believe that their children should be part of these protest rallies because the issues that they carry, like joblessness, poverty, low wages and high tuition fees, affect the whole family," said Francisco.

She said Marquez should "stop pretending on his advocacy of children's rights."

"If Marquez is really concerned with the welfare of children, then he should help put a stop to the killings and abduction of activists whose children are suffering daily if their parents are alive or dead. He should also call for a stop to the massive militarization in the countryside close to elections, using civilians especially women and children," said Ms Francisco.

Bocpe said the complaint is part of the AFP's campaign to "brand" militant groups and their leaders by filing criminal complaints similar to the rebellion charges filed against militant lawmakers which were later ordered dismissed by the Supreme Court.

E-jeepneys to hit streets of Bacolod in clean energy bid

By Carla P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—Come Friday, July the 13th, these electronic jeepneys will begin plying the streets of Bacolod City.

The Bacolod City government and the Green Automotive Incorporated Power Producer (GREPP) will sign a memorandum of agreement on July 13 as formalize the city's support to the Climate Friendly Cities Project.

The MOA signing will be followed by the launching of three electric jeepneys in Bacolod on the same day several leaders of Iloilo City.

The Climate Friendly Cities Project is a joint project of GREPP with Greenpeace Southeast Asia and Solar Generation (Solargen) Inquirer.

The E-jeeps will be initially driven by volunteers of Greenpeace, GREPP and Solargen, particularly during the three months period for period, but drivers will eventually be trained and hired to man the electric-powered jeepneys, said Ishmael Rollocorina of Greenpeace Philippines.

The jeeps, designed by GREPP for the Philippines, are manufactured by a company called Longqing based in Guangzhou, China, that has been producing electric vehicles like golf cars, mini-buses and even police cars, Rollocorina said.

Each jeep costs from P500,000 to P650,000 but Rollocorina said they were hoping to get government incentives on custom duties so they could bring down the price.

She said they were also hoping that more people will order the E-jeeps to hasten the lowering of its unit cost.

MODEL and Greenpeace supporter Amanda Griffin drives the first electric-powered jeepney (E-jeep) during its test run in Makati City. The jeeps are set to revolutionize the Philippine's crowd-inexplicable icon. INQUIRER

Politics dirties East Visayas race for regional body chair

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—POLITICS IS messing up the choice for head of the Regional Development Council in Eastern Visayas, pitting the region's governors against Palace officials.

Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone revealed that he and the other governors in the region have committed to support the bid of Leyte Gov. Carlos Jericho Petilla to become the next RDC chair.

Some Malacañang officials, notably Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio, are however pushing for Calbayog City Mayor Mel Senen Sarmiento to succeed the outgoing RDC chair, Eastern Southern Leyte Gov. Roberto Lucilo, according to Evardone.

Claudio, who is from Samar, is also the Cabinet Official for Regional Development of Eastern Visayas.

Governor in Malacañang said Claudio was one of the officials being blamed for the TU debacle at the recent elections.

The selection of the new RDC officials will be held next week at the regional office of the Environment Management Bureau.

Yet, the governors have already made their commitments to endorse the bid of Governor Petilla, for we were informed that Malacañang favors Mayor Sarmiento to become the RDC chair," Evardone told the Inquirer.

He did not say why Malacañang favored Sarmiento over Petilla, who was once drafted as a senatorial candidate of Team Unity but who later withdrew to run for governor.

While it is the members of the RDC (last nominees who) they want in to the chair and vice chair, it is still the President who has the last say on (as to who the wants) to head the RDC.

The RDC is a collegial body from the government and private sectors that recommends, and of, say, pro-oppressive, the plans and projects for regional development before different funding agencies.

Among the voting members of the RDC are the regions six provincial governors and the mayors of Tacloban, Ormoc, Calbayog and Maasin cities. It is not clear yet if the mayors of the three newly created cities of Baybay (Leyte), Catbalogan (Northern Samar) And Borongan (Samar) are now eligible to sit as voting members of the body.

With the exception of former Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez, all previous chairs of RDC-Eastern Visayas were governors.

Evardone, while admitting that they might feel differently in their endorsement of the Leyte governor with the reported backing of Malacañang if Mayor Sarmiento, refused to say if it would be a battle of loyalties and strength.

"Let us just see and wait," he said.

Evardone ran his governor in 2004 under the banner of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. but drifted away when it became clear that President Macapagal-Arroyo will stay in power.

He is now a trusted ally of Mayor Romualdez and national spokesperson of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines.

Petilla, who won his reelection bid, openly admitted his desire to become the next RDC chair, saying he is competent enough to hold the positions once held by his brother, Benedicto "Macio" Petilla.

ROD SPEAKS o the Sind site director. He and his fellow officials said the country had spent too much time debating English fluency when what attracts big business to the Philippines are the high number of college graduates in its workforce.

US firm to jobseekers: It's not the English

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THREE-FOURTHS of no-shows on Philippines' English-language competency because foreign business has been attracted all along to the high number of college graduates in the workforce, American investors in the business process outsourcing (BPO) trade said.

Bruce Campbell, Sind Philippines' corporate operations officer, told a news conference here that more skilled workers in the country have college degrees compared to their counterparts in the United States who are only high-school graduates.

Jim Boyes, president of the Business Processing Association of the Philippines, said the outsourcing trade would soon rely on those degree holders when call center facilities start moving closer to the medical and legal fields.

Boyes, who is also Sind country manager, said the government "should not lose sight of its goal" to provide English training to "maintain the country's grasp of its competitive advantage."

In Asia, the Philippines is a major English-speaking hub, which is composed of end-results trained workers, Campbell said.

Boyes said this advantage is crucial because "a highly educated workforce... in the disciplines of engineering, math, sciences, legal (affairs), human resources," could be tapped for new call center services, which the BPO trade is now discovering.

Campbell said foreign businessmen are impressed by a contemporary culture that values college degrees.

Now that the debate has been narrowed into policies that improve English training here, it was time "for the pendulum to swing back to the center," he said.

The Sind officials were here to attend the 5th Sind Philippines Golf Classic at the Baguio City Economic Zone.

Boyes said Sind had to lower its personal revenue target from 100 percent in 2006 to 50 percent this year, as a consequence of the strong peso's impact on the trade.

He said the peso strength has hurt Sind and the BPO trade just when overseas customers have increased their demand for Filipino-based customers.

The industry is drifting in "wind map," which it plans to submit to President Macapagal-Arroyo to secure industry-friendly policies for the next 20 years, Boyes said.

For the moment, he said, Sind has been focusing on its buyer needs force assessment.

This school term, the University of the Cordilleras here is piloting a preparatory course in English proficiency, technical competency and customer relations designed by Sind.

Rod Spiers, Sind Baguio site director, said the firm has partnered with UC for a five-year training project to flesh out a curriculum designed for BPO firms.

Bulacan official falls victim to identity theft

CITY OF MALOLOS—An international e-mail syndicate based in Nigeria hacked the e-mail account of a Bulacan government official and demanded $3,500 from people in her contact list.

Marilyn Sta. Rita, provincial administrator here, said someone used her e-mail account to send messages to her family, friends and colleagues, saying that she badly needed money because she was stranded in West Africa.

Sta. Rita's friends received at least 27 an e-mail with the subject "Please, I Need Your Help!"

The e-mail said Sta. Rita was attending a conference in West Africa when she lost her wallet, ATM card, passport and other valuables.

The person asked Sta. Rita's contacts to send the money through Western Union money points in order could pay for her hotel accommodation. The e-mail said Sta. Rita begged the hotel management to allow her to stay as she promised to settle the bills in two weeks.

"My fear is that my friends and business contacts who are based abroad may send money to the fraud account mentioned in e-mail. But in reality, somebody took my identity," she said.

Sta. Rita studied at Harvard University and attended government seminars, trainings, meetings and classes in many other countries in Europe, but she said she has not visited Nigeria.

She said she learned about the hoax when she received several calls from her contacts in the country and abroad asking her about her whereabouts and to verify if she indeed needed financial help.

Shocked, Sta. Rita tried to open her e-mail account but she was permanently barred from accessing her ID number and password.

She withdrew access to e-mail account until now.

Bot Mangalindan, head of Bulacan's information technology office, told Sta. Rita that the people behind the scam most experts because they were able to remove any link or their exact location could not be traced.

Ito said the suspect could have gotten Sta. Rita's password through a scanner in one of her trips abroad where she used computers to open her e-mail.

Sta. Rita appealed to her friends here and abroad to ignore the e-mail and not to send money. *Gertrude Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon*

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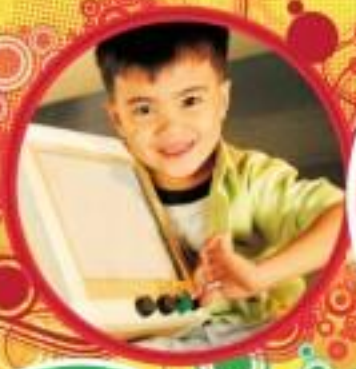

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Nickel mining faces tough challenge

ONE LAST look at Pujada Bay in Davao Oriental before mining activities in the Hamiguitan mountain Range ensue.

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Mati, Davao Oriental

A tribal chief says his people values the 6,800-hectare Mt. Hamiguitan, which is known for its pygmy and mossy forest, and home to the endangered Philippine Eagle

HIS EYES WERE RAZOR-SHARP, but his voice, rising as he stressed a point, was sharper. He warned of a tribal war, if only to protect the natural habitat of the Mt. Hamiguitan range against the threat of mining.

In a recent small group meeting in Sitio Wigwis, Barangay Manorigao, Mandaya Datu Mansoon Victor Ayong said declaring a tribal war would be his last and, perhaps, most powerful option if the plan of the Hamiguitan Mining Inc. (HMI) of Nickel to open a nickel mining project pushed through.

"The interest of the people and our concern for the environment must be the primary consideration here. I will be compelled to declare a tribal war if it is the best way for us to stop the possible destruction, if we are pushed against the wall," Ayong said.

Every now and then, Samal residents around the Pujada Bay off Davao Oriental gather to discuss the upcoming operations of the mining company and how they can stop it. A number of mining companies are keen on operating in Hamiguitan, which straddles the towns of Cateel, Boston, San Isidro and Mati.

Ayong's group has always been vocal about its opposition despite the government's blessing to the industry as an engine of economic growth.

Fishing community

"They have known all these issues that we are against this so we have also been opposing the logging operations. The problem with the government is its bias for big and moneyed companies, leaving us newborn in their priorities," Ayong said.

About 80 percent of the residents of Manorigao rely primarily on fishing for their livelihood, the tribal leader said.

"What will happen to the sea? What will happen to the mountain? What will happen to us? They would be giving some residents here jobs and paying lands the government huge taxes but what will they leave us? Destruction," Ayong said.

He said his people valued the natural habitat of Hamiguitan, their source of food and water. The 6,800-hectare mountain, known for its pygmy and mossy forest, is also home to the endangered Philippine Eagle.

According to the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCZARD), five endangered species of plants are found in Hamiguitan, on top of the 27 rare, 44-endemic, and 95 ecologically important species in the wildlife sanctuary.

The same agency classified Hamiguitan as "mountain fourm," "treasure of the presence of different kinds of mosses, lichens and epiphytes.

In its website, the PCZARD said Hamiguitan is the only mountain in Mindanao unique for its boreal forest. In July 2004, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Republic Act No. 9303 declaring the mountain range and its vicinities protected under the category of wildlife sanctuary.

Protected seascape

The Pujada Bay, covering at least 11,000 hectares, was also declared a protected seascape and landscape under Presidential Proclamation No. 410 in 1994. It is the major source of livelihood of the many coastal communities of Mati. It is also home to a number of endangered marine species such as sea cows, turtles and dugongs.

Since 2004, Davao Oriental has observed the Pujada Festival to generate public awareness on the "alarming degeneration" of the bay.

But a year after Hamiguitan was declared a protected area, then Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun approved the mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) applications of four mining companies—Hagonoy Mining Corp., BL Goldstone Mining and Development Corp., Blue Ridge Minerals and Development Corp. and St. Patrick Mining and Development Corp.

Michael Defensor, who replaced Gozun as environment secretary, approved the MPSAs of Cabanton Mining and Development Corp., Mt. Bush Mining and Development Corp. and Oregon Mining and Development Corp.

The seven mining companies have been allowed to operate within a total of 17,575.56 hectares.

The Mine Management Division of the Mine and Geosciences Bureau said that if mining operations in Hamiguitan pushed through, there would be use of the mountain range's buffer zone. These will only be environmental in Mati's Macambol, Cabuaon and the nearby villages, it said.

Ibrahim Lim, acting division chief, said the agreements issued to the mining companies had been "retained because they cover the protected area."

World's biggest miner

The original seven firms have regrouped into two—Hallmark Mining Corp. and Australbuilt Link Mining Corp., he said. The two entered into a partnership with BHP Billiton of Australia and the United Kingdom, the world's biggest mining company.

BHP Billiton reportedly intends to invest about $1.5 billion to nickel extraction.

Right now, the company is exploring outside the protected area, Lim said. By 2010, mining operations might start, he said, and by 2012, BHP Billiton must submit an perspective the results of its project feasibility study, including social acceptability.

A consultation meeting conducted by top officials of BHP Billiton with the villagers in January last year aborted public opposition contrary to the report made by company president Don Argus in London last year.

Prof. David Sweetman, director of the Social Responsibility in Mining of Australia's Queensland University, documented the consultation and showed how the people of Macambol opposed the project.

Reverent Gaspar, which quoted conservationist Phillip Hopkins, group manager for regional development, states that the company may yet to decide whether or not to develop a mine in the area after its exploration process.

Mining practices in BP

The Reverent paper also notes the irresponsible mining practices conducted in the Philippines.

"Much of the mining in the Philippines up until now has not been responsible, but this did not have to be the case in the future. If BHP Billiton does decide to develop a mine, this will be done responsibly," Hopkins said.

"The company's reputation is very important and it would not do anything that would undermine this reputation. So mining will be undertaken in the Mt. Hamiguitan area."

As if to calm down the people, Hopkins boasted during the consultation meeting that BHP Billiton would follow very "socio engineering standards and the mine and the plant would be designed to minimize the risk of any damage to the environment."

Rehabilitation, he also said, would be conducted "progressively" to help minimize the "footprint of the mine."

Hopkins said crushing dust would be built, covered and revegetated when the mine would be closed.

"All the areas that would be used in the processing would be contained on-site and would not have any impact on the waterways," the BHP Billiton official said.

Despite this, the plans of BHP Billiton is an apparent threat to the richness of Hamiguitan and that of the Pujada Bay, Ayong said.

Ultimately, it is a threat to their lives, he said.

"Declaring war is the only way for us to save the forest, the Pujada Bay, and ourselves. Right now, as they are preparing to destroy the environment here, we are also gathering strength for us to fight back .... it is our only recourse," Ayong said.

PERVIEW captured from a Mt. Hamiguitan range boarder on right sight.

NEWS

For Sulu teacher, road to peace is via the Net

By Maxeri Pedrasa
Contributor

FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER ISNAJE S. SINAIT of Sulu, the road to peace is through the Internet.

He sat hour on weekdays, he opens the computer room in his school to the community at large. And who would come scrounging in but army officers and soldiers from the 32nd and 35th Infantry.

The computers have become pathways to peace as the military meet and converse with public high school students and teachers beginning in the internet.

"They check their e-mail, chat with family and friends, and even surf the Net—first of change," he said, barely 36 year-old Tausug teacher said.

Sinait is the information technology (IT) coordinator at the Maimbung National High School/Annex in Maimbung, Jolo, where there is a ground antenna, 8 wireless computers, but the military's presence was the military's presence with "trouble" and "disturbance."

Maimbung, after all, is home to what locals call the "Freedom Fighters" of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Nur Misuari's first and second wives come from that town.

"But we have set the island, we are still waiting for peace to arrive. We feel it is not yet at hand," Sinajed.

Only a stone's throw away from Sinajed school is barangay Matatal in a Philippine Army camp.

Instead of peace and order, the residents here had come to equate the military's presence with "trouble" and "disturbance."

As the previous school year was coming to an end, he recounts, the main Campus of Maimbung National High School was transformed overnight into a refugee camp following an encounter between the military and alleged Abu Sayaf bandits, said Gober Amirih Ehail, 29, who is the IT coordinator on the main campus.

The computers which are the responsibility of Sinajed and Ehail happen to be the only internet connected computers in the area.

"Cable TV and cellular phone signals are available mainly in Jolo, some 30 kilometers, so its effect are not the only true people have can get connected to the outside world," Sinajed said of his "Internet cafe."

The criminal role of the school in community affairs and development were acknowledged by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) when, through the Computer Literacy and Internet Connection (CLIC) program of Generals with Equity in Rebuilding (GEM II), the school was given 10 Internet-connected computers and other peripherals.

The Internet connection is via satellite.

"We have provided an Internet connection to 644 schools in only three years, and the work goes on," said Michael Longabert, head of GEM II's education and governance division, which runs the CLIC program.

To date, the CLIC program has reached 540,653 students and 14,500 teachers in 27 provinces and cities in Mindanao, mainly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and other conflict-affected areas.

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Environmental warriors save Mother Earth one day at a time

GENGHIS: the praises of the environment are the Alejandros (from bottom to top) Benny, Kevi, Micky, Peggy, Robert, Victor and Tina.

By Maria T. Dimapilis
Correspondent

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT only in vogue these days; it's a must if entrepreneurship is to thrive in this supposed Third World setting we call the Philippines.

Anyone who grew up collecting fresh paper products, lollipop chip sculptures, planners, magnets, rag dolls, dried flower wreaths, T-shirts, "kamo" bags, and quaint, silhouettes cutting boats undoubtedly used by Dependent will realize that its advocacy and commitment to the country and the environment are nothing new.

Ahead of their time

"Before, 'reuse, recycle' has long been its philosophy even when it was probably much colder.

Chetard said cast by the Alejandro siblings Benny Palermo, Vic Peggy Lind, 49; Micky Ortiz, 45; Robert, 42 and Tina, 37. Paperweight's country-style shops—famed for their hand-made paper bags and other things recyclable—are a testament to the Christian Brothers Catholic and Methodist), people-focused upbringing of their parents, Eustaquio "Tasio" Alejandro and Jim "Benny" Alejandro.

The couple formed Ambon (a combination of the first syllable of their surnames) Corp. in the late '80s and launched what was once a small-scale enterprise to export sets of Tissue Mosaic in Quezon City.

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Blind teacher helps the blind lead normal lives

By Marie D. Salazar

LEBYNNE GANO SAYS SHE IS A writer-photo.

But that has not stopped her from using her skills to help other visually impaired people like her to live as normal a life as possible.

Gano teaches basic computer skills and Braille to preschool and elementary students at the Resource for the Blind (RBI) in Cubao, Quezon City, a nonprofit charitable organization offering services nationwide to the blind.

From client to worker

A former regular "client" of RBI, Gano started out as a receptionist. She was later asked to teach, becoming a RBI employee in 2002 after completing a computer course at the Adaptive Technology for Rehabilitation, Integration and Empowerment of the Visually Impaired (ATRIEV).

ATRIEV is a Quezon City-based nongovernment organization offering a computer literacy program for blind people. Gano has a degree in English from Trinity College, also in Quezon City.

"My friend convinced me to enroll in the computer course," Gano said. She considers herself techno phobic because she easily panics when she presses the buttons.

Now, she helps children learn basic computer skills so they can surf the Internet, among other things.

Visually impaired individuals use the software called JAWS (Job Access for Speech) for Windows to help them use the computers. It is basically a screen reader that tells the user what is on the computer monitor or what application is being used.

Although quite expensive, the software has proven to be a big help for those eager to use the computers.

RBI is now experimenting with a more affordable software that can be carried around in a flash disk-type device.

Gano learned to operate the computer as a student of ATRIEV.

She learned Braille at Ilaiim Elementary School in Project 3, Quezon City, a regular school with a Special Education Center. When she entered college, Gano studied piano lay her job in dream selling to accompany her in school.

"If you will notice, there are no SPED centers in colleges and universities because, when you reach college, you must already have the skills to become independent," she told the reporter.

She also pointed out that some universities did not accept blind students.

Gano's blindness was caused by rubella (German measles), which her mother contracted when she was pregnant with her. The family learned of her condition when she was three months old after they noticed white lines in her eyes. She completely lost her sight after college.

Gano said did not escape the occasional teasing and bullying by other kids but she just shrugged them off. "Because they are kids and some of them don't understand."

During the last school break, Gano resumed around with her friends to join them for the opening of this school year.

She teaches not only visually impaired kids but also those with multiple handicaps. Some kids, she noted, had behavior problems or other physical problems.

To avoid losing her patience with her students, Gano said she thought of how patient her teachers were with her. "Thus given me the tolerance to deal with difficult students," she said.

She tries different approaches in dealing with her students. One student, for example, likes to talk and tell her stories. "I just let her talk for a while before I proceed with the lesson. Then she lets, at ease ako," she said.

"Here in RBI, we encourage them to attend regular schools," Gano said. "When I do it basically tutorial at one-on-one teaching."

Ideal teacher

She said she believed the best person to teach a visually impaired person, "is also a visually impaired one."

"It is not only because we understand their needs but our experience gives them the reassurance that the learning process won't be as hard as they think it would be," she added.

"As a teacher, I have to first understand that I'm teaching blind students," she said. "I don't like to throw in detail what I am teaching to give them an idea of what I'm talking about."

"I cannot say 'this,' 'there,' or 'that' because they won't be able to comprehend what I'm saying," she added.

Gano said she encouraged parents in her in the room where she conducted the tutorial not only to get them involved but also to help her look after their child. There were times, she said, when a student would just leave the room without asking permission.

She said she felt great teaching children no matter how difficult things would be at times.

"I feel great when I see improvement in my students," she said. "And when they tell their parents, 'I learned this from teacher.'"

Gano related how one child kept telling her, "I love you, teacher!" It only occurred to her because of the lessons her students were approaching.

The middle child in a brood of three, Gano is accompanied by her father, a former watchman, wherever she goes to work.

Gano said she intended to develop other activities that would interest her students and help them appreciate more what she taught them.

LEBYNNE Gano believes that the best teacher for a person who is blind is someone who is also blind.

Black is 'in' among car thieves in Quezon City

By Jeannette I. Andrade

OWNERS OF BLACK VEHICLES IN Quezon City, beware.

According to city police chief, Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula, (at times, by some unexplained reason,) often target black vehicles, particularly sports utility vehicles, that are black.

Gatdula said their observation was bolstered by the recent arrest of members of the Talibanis car theft syndicate.

"Maybe it is easier for them to sell. Maybe they think that black is a cop-color and feels safer that cops won't be pulled," the director of the Quezon City Police District said.

He noted that the Talibanis Group stole them. Mark Mirandilla Fabros pushed on the University of the Philippines Talibanis car theft syndicate.

One of the stolen Mitsubishi Pajeros, with license plate APL 312 owned by Ana Lopez, was recovered last Wednesday in a police raid from the alleged lair of the syndicate in Barangay Batasan Hills.

The Pajero was equipped with a global positioning system (GPS) tracking device which enabled police to locate the vehicle.

During the raid, the group found the official registration and certificate of registration for another black Pajero, owned by a UP student identified as Arnold Sana.

Gatdula, however, said that owners of black cars need not worry but should take security measures to see that their vehicles would be safe from car thieves.

"Most of the time, these cars are stolen because of simple carelessness on their owners' part. It is important to secure that car—owners can't expect to never secure," he stressed.

He pointed out that there are many measures that can be undertaken to prevent vehicles from being stolen like installing a car alarm or a steering wheel lock.

"We just have to take the necessary precautions," the QCPD director emphasized.

Meanwhile, Traffic Management Center chief, Director Errol Paz, told the Inquirer that the Talibanis Group has been in their watch list since the 1990s, mainly for their car theft activities in Central Luzon.

He said these Talibanis brothers and their father are in for the theft conspiracy involving the car theft accidents," Paz said, pointing out that he was still a police major when he first heard of the Talibanis.

The Talibanis Group is named after the suspected ringleaders of the syndicate, brothers Jhon and Leonardo Talibanis, who own a car exchange business and shop in Quezon City, Leonardo was arrested in Bulacan by a raid.

Lim to GMA: No chaos in Mendiola

By Tina D. Santos

FOLLOWING HIS DECLARATION that he would allow protesters to set foot on Mendiola once again, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday assured President Macapagal-Arroyo that there would be no chaos in the city during his term.

"I assured her that there would be no trouble in Mendiola as long as I am the mayor, that's my official responsibility," Lim, a known supporter of deposed President Joseph Estrada, told reporters who asked him what he and Ms. Arroyo talked about.

The two met yesterday at the opening of Senator Ng Eat-soon (Gener of Malibu), a skills training center for students and out-of-school youth in Tayuman, Manila.

The President was also heard praising Lim, to everyone who is known for implementing peace and order.

Lim, whose friends endorsed when he ran for mayor last May, each or announced that Mendiola would be open once again to militant groups who want to make their voices heard.

Lim said he would be lenient only to workers and holidays, so as not to inconvenience students and motorists, he added.

During the term of Lim's predecessor, former Mayor Lito Atienza, Mendiola was declared a no-rally zone because of its proximity to the Palace.

To avoid any misunderstanding, Lim, the Manila Police District and the Presidential Security Group yesterday agreed on certain rules in the conduct of rallies in the area.

Under the rules of engagement, the PSG will strictly observe the "no permit, no rally" policy and does permit one to any group who wants to hold a protest if it senses an immediate threat of violence.

From page A1

Environmental warriors . . .

From there, the first Hyperactivist (a combination of the first syllables of their children's first names) branch opened in 40 Mall Cubao "where I was 28," recalls Patty.

Borne out of a love of "family, made things which we collected," it was also an exercise in discipline the parents learned to their children. Hyperactivists, artistic/business tasers.

Pack out all (Gott: "We don't throw things away"), world class customers, and self-admitted "chargeholics," their lives have been carefully documented through journals, scrap booking, the Web and a paperful line drawings, observant existence.

Talented family

Talent is certainly not wasted on the Alejandros. Winona recommended "guest list." Tina and Peggy's paper products develop. Robert's growing, fanciful pen-and-ink artworks as cards and notice-taxes, etc., Ken's handcrafted driftwood wreaths and Molly's resin sculptures/jewelry.

Growing up, Patty slowly assumed the role of design laboratory rats "director" while the rest looked their eyes over into an artistic democracy. Red duplicating machine was a regular activity. "Embarrassment by default," adds an amused Robert. Messy is the guidance someone who still manages to indulge in admiring his garden's bounty (composting, shredding) in Quezon City.

With trips abroad, "we discovered our brainwaves were in sync of the materials we were using for our products," observes Patty. Fleetwood (pale shine) for the furniture line is sourced from shipping crates. Nails are made from the very same paper used for "pambalot ng regalo" (paper bag for bread). "Added by, though, the pads were printed out of tablet paper due to the smooth paper-it-best attributes of the Tela."

Nature lovers

Call them Nature Freaks. The whole family (in laws, grandchildren and relatives included) shares an avowed passion for recycling (Penta Pargo, Subic, among others), fishing, sailing, snorkeling, hiking. Some are members or supporters of Haribon Foundation, WWildlife Club of the Philippines and Planet Patrol, Greenpeace and Earthwatch programs (such as the Cano Foundation in Bohlgaye, Aklan) are part of their humanware agenda.

Says Ken K, "People don't have to do big things to contribute to saving the planet." We've always been reminded to secure from the owners with kindness and all sorts of efforts, gather the owners with plastic shopping bags and abuse me can bon print index. Recycling centers abound, but some still throw guns, sandwich wrappers on sidewalks and in alleys.

Here are tips for the ecologically-minded: "Organize your family," advises Tina, who has written a compact "Earth Stories" book ideal for gifting. Molly: "I clear the lights when I leave the bathroom or bedroom. Peggy: "Turn off the running faucet." General housing projects in Manila (try, future-gen and Cavite are just some of the activities the respective volunteers by.

One doesn't even have to be an ill. Goes to be an global warming-vigilant.

And that's the significant, Filipino touch, as this family has shown in thought, word and deed.

"Sa LAHI ng kulang ng mga DAY sa ating mga anyo, namamalas ng hindi lamang ang ganda ng pangalawa ang ganda ng pagpapakatao ng isang lahi: pati bagyo nila at kalungkutan ay nagiging kasangkapan upang mas lumalim at lumakas ang kanilang samahan."

NELL F. DE CASTRO, December 2006

GLOBAL Pinoy

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Text us your feedback:

This section is dedicated to Filipino overseas living on land and at sea, in darkness, in constellation alone and in the bosoms of the world, and wherever need can be combated to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

That certain smile calms stormy seas

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE WONDERS of a cook-turned-dancer for the executives, staff and passengers of a two-week Asian tour of cruise ship Costa Allegra, among them (from left), waiter Abraham Gaerlan, hotel director Loris Angelo, chief Henry Magnanilan, ship captain Giancarlo Cita and shipping tycoon Pedro Pastarejan.

THERE IS SOMEthing in their smile. They are described as smart and hardworking. And this is what really endears the 86 Filipinos working in an Italian cruise ship to their bosses and fellow workers.

They are always smiling, says Italian Loris De Angelo, who is the hotel director of the eight-deck cruise ship Costa Allegra.

Need proof? Filipinos are the biggest group on board the ship, followed also by Italians, Chinese, Indians, Romanians, Americans and other foreign nationals, he adds.

Ship-crew members wear name plates bearing not only their names but also the flags of their countries, fitting in the dining hall, sporting the Philippine flag is easy.

Ship captain Giancarlo Cita, also an Italian, says he gets good feedback about Filipino workers from their passengers, mostly first-timers, who come from as far as Australia to enjoy Costa's two-week Asian tour.

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IN MANILA for the first time last May, the eight-deck Costa Allegra carries a crew of 1,000 on board.

He says Filipinos learn very quickly and can fit small problems easily. But he says the charm really comes from their natural smile.

Fantastic

The smile seems to be contagious: De Angelo smiles as he talks about his Filipino crew members. "They are fantastic," he tells the inquirer.

Costa Allegra was in Manila for the first time. It stayed for a few hours as a group of passengers went to collect Tagaytay City as itinerary as part of the ship's two-week cruise stop. Cruises—each could up to $3000, depending on the accommodations, for the tour which included stops in Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Costa's home-country.

Filipino workers in the ship, like 32-year-old Abraham Gaerlan, whose family is based in Cabuyao City, have all the reason to smile.

Gaerlan, who never finished college, started working as a waiter for the cruise company in 2000. He now earns close to P100,000 a month, a princely sum.

He used to work for upscale restaurants in Makati City, earning P8,000 monthly until some friends encouraged him to try applying in a manpower agency deploying workers to Italian-style company Costa Crociere Group, which operates its cruise vessels, including Costa Allegra, in Europe, South America and now in Asia.

"I told myself nothing will happen to me here in this country," says Gaerlan, the youngest of eight children.

Four years later, still single, he had already bought a house and lot in La Union. He can now buy his own car. He got to travel the world.

Hard work, dedication

Work is hard, of course. Not only is Gaerlan away from his family eight months of the year, his jobs—he works seven days a week, 11 hours a day, most of the time standing, attending to the needs of diners.

The consolation is, hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed. Gaerlan—who started as a commis waiter—is now a Food Chief C, just a few ranks away from being the ship's executive chef.

His family is based in Laguna. His parents are already separated. Used to work abroad just like his siblings and relatives so they made him take morning in college. But he never finished the course.

His passion for cooking prevailed and it was meant to be.

He now gets pay in many countries around the world where the ship docks, as he is also in mid-ocean stints, rates that food and pastries cooking there, expanding his talent. He also earns more than $1,000 monthly bonuses not included.

Chief cook is Pinoy

He specializes on paella and ocean soup, dishes which have earned him the admiration of many passengers. "My boss would ask why my paella tastes different. Is where we use the same ingredients. I really don't know," he says.

He is also keen in charge of preparing Italian pasta and soup for special orders, entertaining many Italian cooks on board. It has earned him their ire.

"They are questioning my promotion. They said how could 'the head of the pasta' and 'soup' chief. I am not an Italian," he says.

Too bad, his talent for learning recipes quickly after tasting a dish or just after observing the preparation has long earned him the respect of his bosses.

"The chief cook for the food served to all-star members is also Filipino, "De Angelo says, an interview subtitle he got to taste Filipino food. His favorites: ginger soup and adobo.

Ship waiter Glenn Bona, a 35-year-old Bonanense, also speaks highly of his Filipino countrymen: "They are a great people. They are very helpful. You can trust them."

He quickly adds: "They are very hospitable."

He says Filipinos love to entertain people. They would be among the first to sing and dance for the evening entertainment.

Filipinos are also the quickest to learn foreign languages, understanding them to passengers who would only speak Italian, French or Spanish, De Angelo adds.

"Filipinos are better than anybody else in mixing Italian, English and Spanish," he says.

Testimonial

The good news is Costa Crociere is planning to hire more Filipino workers, he adds. "All of us (officials), are required Filipino because they are a familiar people for us."

"It helps that Filipinos and Italians share the same religion and almost the same culture (the Philippines being under Spanish rule for over 300 years)," he says.

Magsaysay Maritime Corporation assistant vice president Pedro Magsaysay says the entire Costa Crociere group now employs 9,221 Filipinos.

"It is an achievement for the local agency, which recruits and trains workers here exclusively for the cruise company, considering that when the partnership began some years ago, the company only hired 30 Filipino workers."

Flashing a smile, he says the consistent rise is a testament how good Filipinos are.

'Pinoy Cinderella' in Saudi builds mall in Guagua, spa in Pasay

By Emerson Corsa

TIME TO RELAX. Hilo Boko builds the Bay Spa on Macapagal Boulevard in Pasay City after working for 23 years in Saudi Arabia, where he was probably one of the highest-paid Filipino workers.

BE COULD HAVE STAYED IN the United States where his family is at in the booming deserts of Saudi Arabia to take in more money. But Mike Boko opts to stay home and walk on the road less traveled.

"I've had enough overseas. Life's routine is obviously there but it's like to get old here," Mike Boko tells the business in an interview.

Turning 53, Boko obviously had enjoyed the prime of his life working 20 years as an accountant and chief financial officer in several companies in Saudi.

All of that he had done in 2005, he decided to retire and settle to where, he says, his heart is.

"I'd rather spend whatever earnings I have here," says Boko who has put up a spa center in Manila and a commercial building in his hometown, Guagua, Pampanga.

The spa which started in August, 2005 employs 14 masseurs, whom he says could have ended as domestic helpers had they gone abroad.

They were mostly high school graduates but they were keen as much as P20,000 monthly as masseurs," he adds.

The P60-million, 3-story commercial building, on one hand, is expected to be in full swing this month. It will house various establishments such as a dance studio, fabricated metal, a 7"11 convenience and a modern interior-cum-dental clinic run by one of his children.

"The mall-type building will be the center of life for Guagua". This is my way of paying back the people I grew up with. This will be a one-stop shop," he adds.

Formula for success

But the success of Boko didn't happen in a blink of an eye.

"I was good in numbers and they were indeed me throughout. But of course, it was sheer determination, hardwork and patience," he says.

His is a classic Cinderella story. He climbed the corporate ladder from being an ordinary Accounting board passer.

It was his brother who was looking for a job abroad that it was finally his turn to get to the Kingdom.

At 23, he worked at an accounting firm in Riyadh where he stayed for two years. He later moved to a healthcare company, the Gama Services Ltd., where he spent 23 years. He left Gama as corporate assistant controller.

At an early age, Mike learned how to budget his cash with assistance as business administration student at the University of the East.

But the hard times didn't stop here. Becoming of a brighter life for his family. It actually was one of the guarding factors behind his success.

He graduated valedictorian in high school which qualified him for a business course at the University of Santo Tomas.

But after a year in UST, he decided to transfer to the University of the East where scholastic were more suitable to him as a working student. After graduating and passing the CPA boards, he left the country in 1980.

He also had his own family to raise, being married to a fellow Kapampangan at an early age. "My first two years were miserable because I had no idea of the culture of the place. I was young and was thinking that things are done as they were done in the Philippines."

But he eventually learned the ropes, he says. He later learned how to choose his bet into the fray, so to speak. He preferred well ahead of his co-workers. He started running errands for his superiors, then bosses and sat by the company "everything was fine. A lot of freebies. So my monthly check goes to my family tax-free," he recalls. In fact, he admits, he was one of the highest paid Filipinos in Saudi at that time.

Children far from me

"Given a chance I would have tried to work out my relationship with my children. They grew up day by day, etc. We've gone our separate," Boko says.

Two of his kids are now in the US. Michelle, the eldest has a family of her own while Michael, 26, is studying law in Chicago. The rest, the children, Makoto, is helping him run the family business in Guagua.

Business secret

Asked his business secret, Boko considers only one. "There's a lot of opportunities here. But the real part is that the money that Filipinos work hard for are going to the hands of the rich people. Most of them foreigners."

These days, Boko says he gets himself busy by doing the rounds of his businesses. He rarely gets rest days. "I don't even have time to watch TV. I am always in front of my computer. I wake up at 6 a.m. to check emails then my day ends at about 3 a.m."

"Until I get my reserved plane there. I'll finally take a break," he says. He is currently inviting people to run his commercial center in Guagua. "I'm happy but not contented. I have a lot more things that I've wanted to do but can't be myself though."

Did he ever think of running for public office? "No, I've received feedback from some of my countrymen. But it's not really my call. I'll help out as a private individual."

US stops issuing employment visa until Oct. 1

THOUSANDS OF APPLICANTS for US immigrant visas based on employment have been required last month upon release of the monthly Visa Bulletin by the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs, but the unavailable beginning July 1.

The effects of the official pronouncement, significant even, hers of visa applicants prepared to file their applications for immigrant visas. In their cinema this week, US State Department issued an official statement on July 2 stating that they are updating and revising their July Visa Bulletin and that no more visas will be issued until the start of the fiscal year which is on Oct. 1. The US Department of Homeland Security also announced that they are not accepting employment-based applications for this month of July.

The reversal of the official announcement of the US Department of State is unprecedented. It effectively puts a moratorium on millions of job, businesses and immigration applications who had spent the last two weeks waiting to file applications in advance of the July Visa Bulletin's released last month. Thousands of dollars were also invested in legal fees and other applications related expenses in preparation of their immigrant applications based on the monthly visa bulletin. A lawsuit is expected to be filed by immigration attorneys against the US Department of State and the US Department of Homeland Security for violation of various provisions regulations.

IMFO

Lourdes Gonzalez
Reporter

Congressman Joe Lofgren, of California, filing, that congressional and municipal update, the Immigrants of State and Homeland Security have seriously undermined the stability and predictability of US immigration law. This update mocks a terrible precedent, and undermines our nation's efforts to foster legal and orderly immigration."

The sudden reversal of this official announcements was caused by the "sudden backlog reduction efforts" by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) which is the federal agency that processes applications in the US. The Department of State had initially estimated that 60,000 visas would be made available.

However, subsequent to the Department of State's issuance of the original July visa bulletin making visas available, the USCIS suddenly requested more visa numbers in the last two weeks of June for pending employment petition applications even if those applications were not forms appropriated for receiving in the new availability of visas for July 2007.

So these tabs have found the sense in the past week, including those who need no update in this and new dated July 1, longer are available issuances issued by the reliance on the State Department's original July Visa Bulletin. By now, the expectation is that no visas will be available for employment-based petitions until the new fiscal year which starts on Oct. 1. Even those new numbers for employment-based immigrant visas are expected to be released.

The US Department of State is responsible for administering the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), codified in the immigration laws on immigrant visa issuances. It establishes the cut-off dates and numerical availability of visas monthly on or about the 6th of each month. The visa bulletins are published every month and may be checked on line at their website www.travel.state.gov.

IMFO stands for Immigration Information. Email Reporter at lour@inquirer.com

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Chanco

Iraqi doctor charged over UK bombings

LONDON,—BRITISH POLICE CHARGED FRIDAY a first suspect, a 27-year-old Iraqi doctor, over two failed car bombings in London and a third botched attack at Glasgow airport last weekend.

Bilal Abdulla, one of eight people so far arrested over the attempted attacks, will appear on Saturday in a central London court charged with conspiring to cause explosions.

Abdulla, a doctor at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley, Scotland, was arrested after he and Kafeel Ahmed, rammed a Jeep Cherokee packed with nails and gas canisters into the main terminal at Glasgow airport on Saturday, but only Ahmed suffered serious burns.

A senior security source told AFP that the attack was unplanned and implemented out of "sheer desperation" because police were desiring in, in London, the Scottish national who was reportedly the driver of the Jeep is fighting for his life in hospital with 90 percent burns.

The Glasgow attack came after two Mercedes cars were discovered packed with explosives in the city district in the early hours of last Friday, also packed with gas canisters and nails. They failed to explode.

Police have linked the attacks in London and Glasgow but the Glasgow police reportedly whether Abdulla was being called up on both.

Six other people are under arrest on suspicion of involvement in the attacks. Nine of the suspects are thought to be either doctors or linked to the National Health Service.

The Times newspaper and other media said Abdulla and Ahmed had written an apparent suicide note explaining their motives. It indicated that they had planned to blow up the vehicle in the airport, the Times said.

Over the last few days, attention has focused on an Australian connection, after one doctor was arrested on Monday and several others were questioned toward the end of the week.

In Sydney on Friday, authorities said officers had raided hospitals in the Western Australian cities of Perth and Kalgoorlie and briefly quizzed four Indian doctors who had previously worked in the British health system.

Federal Police commissioner Mick Keelty said a fifth doctor, reportedly an Indian working in Sydney, was questioned in New South Wales. AFP

WorldBriefs

Canada, Massachusetts warn vs China toothpaste

BOSTON—Health authorities in Canada and Massachusetts are warning consumers of the risk from China-made counterfeit toothpaste after inspections of imported products found dangerous amounts of diethylene glycol, an industrial solvent used in some antifreeze products. New York-based Colgate-Palmolive Co. has said the products are fakes and that it does not use, nor has ever used, diethylene glycol as an ingredient in its toothpaste or anywhere in its world. AFP/AFP

Blair wanted Diana to be envoy for Britain

LONDON—The forthcoming diaries of Tony Blair's former press chief contain details about how the former British prime minister wanted princess Diana to be an ambassador for Britain, the Daily Mirror said Saturday. Blair security chief Brendan Montague before and after he became prime minister in 1997, the newspaper said, quoting a "well-placed source" who had seen parts of the former political editor Alastair Campbell's book "The Blair Years." But the meetings were so secretive they had to be held away from the heart of British politics, Whitehall. Montague as a member of the publicity-spotlight royal family Diana could have been an asset of politicking, it said. "Campbell's diaries tell how Blair and Diana always held their private meetings away from Whitehall." The source was quoted as saying of the book, which is published on Wednesday. "It's pretty clear they were discussing some kind of new role for her. He thought she could play a brilliant job as a kind of ambassador for Britain." Montague said. "The princess was intrigued by the idea. She liked the image of the country Blair wanted to project and thought she could make a contribution. She was very excited about it." AFP

Millions demand release of hostages in Colombia

BOGOTA—Millions of Colombians brought the country to a standstill Thursday in nationwide protests to demand that armed groups release thousands of hostages they are holding. Demonstrators were united in dress and sacred with the Colombian flag to show their unity in demanding an end to the conflict that has torn the South American country apart for the past four decades. At midday on Thursday, a cacophony of car horns, church bells and whistles reverberated in major cities as Colombians turned out en masse for the protest called after 11 hostages held by political rebels were killed last month. The rebels also demanded "freedom without conditions now" for the more than 3,000 people held hostage by leftist guerrillas, fighting paramilitary groups and criminals across the Andean nation. Families of hostages and non-governmental groups used the Roman Catholic Church to get to the protest after the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or Marxist guerrilla group known as FARC, said 11 provincial lawmakers it had held hostage were killed in a botched government rescue—though the government has said the hostages were killed in captivity. AFP

FAMOUS GUNMAN

Mikhail Kalashnikov, 87, holds his AK-47 No.1, a prototype of the famous AK-47 rifle, during a ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of the world-wide assault rifle's creation in the Russia's Armed Forces Central Museum in Moscow on July 6. AFP

SPECIAL DAY WEDDING

Malaysia couples pose for photograph after their wedding ceremony at the Buddhist Maha Vihara temple in Kuala Lumpur on July 7. Fifty couples tied the knots on a special date 07.07.07 which appears once in a hundred years. REUTERS

Israeli settlements go beyond boundaries

JERUSALEM—ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS in the occupied West Bank are only 12 percent of the land allocated to them, but one-third of the territory they do use lies outside their official boundaries, according to a report released on Friday by Peace Now, an advocacy group.

According to the report, based on official data released by the Israeli government after a court order, 32 percent of the settlements spread beyond their official boundaries despite the large amount of unused land already allocated to them.

More than 10 percent of the land included within the official jurisdiction of the settlements is owned privately by Palestinians, as a 78 percent of the land the settlements control outside their official boundaries, said the report, which Peace Now released on Friday to the Haaretz newspaper.

According to Dror Etkes, who prepared the report with Hagit Ofran of Peace Now, the official data show how the Israeli government has taken West Bank land beyond the needs of the settlements to prevent Palestinian construction there and to add a zone of separation between the settlers and the Palestinians.

But once an area is closed to Palestinians, settlers have seized adjacent Palestinian lands, often privately owned, without being stopped by the army, which is the legal sovereign in the occupied territories.

"There is a pattern of a failure to enforce the law on the settlers," Etkes asserted. "But the lack of enforcement isn't an accident. It became another tool to achieve the military goals of the government, which is to allocate the land and hold it."

The data, updated to the end of 2006, was provided officially by the Israeli government's Civil Administration, which governs civilian activities in the territories, in response to a lawsuit brought by Peace Now and the Movement for Freedom of Information in Israel. For years, until the court case, official maps of the settlements in the West Bank were not available.

Shlomo Dror, spokesperson for Israel's military administration in the West Bank, said that many of the failings noted in the report had taken place years ago and had been corrected. "Today we don't leave enforcement, the ownership of land is checked and we pursue legal action where necessary," he said.

Etkes responded: "I'm not sure their enforcement is going better, but their sense of humor is." AFP

Car bombs, mortars kill 50 Iraqis, 6 US soldiers

BAGHDAD—A SERIES OF CAR bombs and mortar attacks killed 50 people in Iraq, police and local officials said on Saturday, while the US military announced six soldiers had been killed in the past two days.

The fresh violence follows a relatively quiet few days in Iraq, where tens of thousands of US and Iraqi troops are on the offensive against insurgents in a last-ditch attempt to halt the country's drift into all-out sectarian civil war.

One car bomb ripped through a crowded outdoor market in the northern town of Tal Afar in Nineveh province, killing 20 people and wounding 40, police said. They said the toll was expected to rise as many people were shopping at the time of the Saturday morning attack.

Police said it was unclear if it was a car bomb or detonated on a parked car had exploded.

A suicide car bomber also killed 23 people and wounded 17 others when he drove his vehicle into a group of Shiite Kurds near Iraq's border with Iranian Friday evening.

Another car bomb killed the head of the local council in Garjbouch village, and the victims were returning from a funeral. The village it in Diyala province, where US and Iraqi forces last month launched an offensive against Sunni Islamist al-Qaida militants who have established bases. Killed from soldiers in Baghdad, three on Friday and one on Thursday. It said two Marines were killed in combat in Anbar province on Thursday.

US casualties have risen sharply in the past few months.

The Democrat-led US President George W. Bush under mounting pressure from opposition Democrats and increasingly from some figures in his own Republican Party to show his war strategy is working after ordering 28,000 more troops to Iraq. Reuters

Musharraf's plane fired upon as mosque standoff continues

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—A burst of gunfire targeted Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's plane took off on Friday morning from an airfield in the garrison town of Rawalpindi, near the capital, as the government's siege of a militant mosque entered its seventh day.

Security officials said they recovered two ammunition guns and one rubber bullet gun with a telescopic sight from the rooftop of a house barely a mile from the airport where the shooting had apparently taken place.

It was not immediately clear if there was a link between the shooting and the siege at the Lal Masjid, or Red Mosque, complex in the heart of the capital, where the leader of the rebel firm vowed to fight to the death.

Pakistani officials denied that Musharraf's plane had come under fire or that a rocket had been fired.

"At the moment, there does not appear to be any linkage between the incident and the president's flight to Turbat," Musharraf's destination in the southwestern province of Baluchistan, a government statement said. Musharraf arrived safely in Turbat after all-clear declarations by people affected by catastrophic floods across that region.

The siege of the mosque, where several hundred students and militants remain holed up, seemed to be entering a more tense period after the government rejected the conditions for surrender offered on Thursday evening by the leading cleric, Abdur Rashid Ghazi. AFP

CANDIDATE FOR WORLD WONDER

View of the Moais, the giant volcanic rock statues, on the Eastern Island, Chile, in this February 2007 photo. Eastern Island is among the leading contenders to be the new seven wonders of the world as a massive poll enters its final month with votes already cast by more than 100 million people, organizers say. AP

Gore kicks off worldwide Live Earth concerts

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—LIVE Earth got a traditional Aboriginal welcome in Australia and a high-tech virtual one in space, as the 24-hour global concert series to raise awareness about climate change kicked off yesterday.

Former US Vice President Al Gore made appearances at both—as a hologram in Tokyo and via live video link to Earth—at stage rock fests to rally the fight against global warming.

Shoshanee Arreallon, the Perth-born and Kaiser West are among the top billed of more than 100 acts due to appear in the series of nine concerts.

The biggest names will be at Live Earth concerts in London and New Jersey, with seven-member lineups of mostly local and regional acts in Australia, Japan, China, South Africa, Brazil and Germany.

Aboriginal tribal leaders with white-painted bodies and shaking eucalyptus branch wave the first to take the stage in Sydney. To the sounds of a didgeridoo wind pipe, they sang and danced a traditional welcome as the crowd that grew quickly from a few hundred swelling to several thousand by around lunchtime.

The group were immediately followed by a live video greeting from Gore, whose campaign to have global warming onto the international political agenda inspired the event.

Gore hyped the crowd to take Live Earth's seven-point pledge to reduce their personal environmental impact and support policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Thank you for coming today and thank you for being the very first to launch this movement to help solve the climate crisis," Gore said, standing before the Capitol building in Washington. "Enjoy the show."

The Tokyo concert kicked off with a high-tech, laser- and light-drenched performance by virtual-reality act Gorillaz Rudeen.

Gore got into the spirit, appearing as a hologram to deliver another one-liner pitched perfectly.

"With Live Earth, we hope to connect people through the power of music and engage them with a single universal message: SOS. Answer the call," Gore said.

Critics say Live Earth lacks achievable goals, and that hoping to get setting rock stars to lead guzzling airliners to plug in simple stacks and vanishing on the sound was used mixed messages about energy conservation.

Organizers say the concerts will be as green as possible, by using biodiesel for power and recycled products where possible. Proceeds from ticket sales will go toward distributing power-efficient light bulbs and other measures to offset the shows' greenhouse gas emissions, they say. AP

Sunday SPORTS

THE SALINGSAY Dance Troupe of East University of Santo Tomas puts on the grand display of pomp and pageantry in yesterday's UAAP opening ceremonies.

UAAP BASKETBALL

Archers rip hapless Maroons; NU scores

By Jeannie W. Paya

MICROVAN
(02) 984-0278/79
MEGA SALE!

Opening rout has wrong coach worried over Game 2

JAIME TORRE (Manila Standard)
For ex—Rookies in Life 'N Text

FOR SOMEONE WHO WON THE OPENing game of the PBA Fiesta Cup championship series in overwhelming fashion, Tim Cone watched like the coach on the losing end of the score.

"They'll make their adjustments," Cone said to explain the seventy-one how his team outrebounded the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals, 113-66, Friday night. "They just got clunked and went to point inside. They'll change that whole mind set.

"I don't like the winning three kinds of games," he added. "But I'll take anything at this point."

Cone said last Asec take the Araneta Coliseum floor at 6 p.m. tonight seeking a 2-0 lead that would move them closer to the franchise's first title in seven years.

And Cone knows that he would have to keep his players' feet on the ground and not take the Phone Pals for granted.

"The last time we won a [playoff] game as a blowout like this one was against Ben Mbgael [in Game 1 of the semifinals], and they rebounded the next night and beat the hell out of us.

"We would like to avoid [a repeat of] that because I don't want to [to it] what I like to call a 'ping pong' series."

The Phone Pals will have a lot of adjusting to prevent the Asec from dominating them on both ends of the floor again.

Manila had a 40-30 edge off the boards, a 27-2 advantage in second chance points, a 28-10 bubble in the assists department and an overwhelming edge in the bank shots.

"It was a lot harder than it looked," said Cone, whom is seeking to win a 12th title in his career and evade those the all-time mark of 13 held by his idol, Baby Dalupan. "I'm sure that there'll be a completely different look in Game 2."

Ronell Ellis had 22 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists, which represented the service Talk 'N Text need, while Phillip Mellbar had 20 and Mike Cortez 20 in a three-point-packed barbecue that the Phone Pals had no answer to.

And Mac Cardona was silenced all night, finishing with just 12 points after taking a 27.5-point playoff average into the series opener.

JJ Gallinger was also held to harmless numbers, with 11 of his 20 points coming since the final two periods when the game was already beyond doubt as Manila took hold of its many on 22.

"I made some of that as our defense," Cone added.

Asecs came into the series on a key player shaky, with Jeffrey Cariaso out for at least another game because of a knee injury.

But the Aces showed no sense of being underwhelmed, with most everyone stepping up and playing with so much hunger compared to the Phone Pals, who gave up at the first sign of adversity.

"I think it's because they've [a] young [team]," Cone said. #Manuel B. Gazelle-ing time the final two periods when the game was already beyond doubt as Manila took hold of its many on 22.

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"I think it's because they've [a] young [team]," Cone said. #Manuel B. Gazelle-

San Miguel-RP brings down Iran

PAWEL Lopez (4) for UP Maroons drives past Lo Sale defender Rajiv Lee yesterday at the start of the UAAP basketball men. La Salle won, 81-61. *Jhaimee Lacsay on A33*

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

TAIPEI—CHALLENGED TO PLAY AS IF THIS was the Asia Elite Championship in Japan, the San Miguel-Pilipinas national quintet responded by whipping Iran, 89-75, Saturday in the 39th William Jones Cup International basketball tournament here.

James Yap, a new factor in RP's three outfit, at times, redeemed himself by scoring a team high 19 points while Asmir Alagoz and Mark Caguioa repeated their earlier rules against the defending champion United Iranes in leading the Filipinos to their most impressive win so far.

"The boys really played well," said national coach Chot Reyes, who singled out not only Yap, but Dondon Hontiveros and Alagoz as the ones he was most thrilled, in their own quiet way, to the country's third victory in six games.

"Coming in, I challenged the boys to have the mind-set that they're playing Iran in the Asia Elite championship. I'm glad to the boys responded," he added.

Yap was an inspiring arm for the Filipinos, who remained upbeat despite taking a 74-70 decision from Jordan Friday.

Jordan and Iran are in RP's bracket in the Fiba-Asia along with defending champion China and all three nations are using the tournament for training and scouting the enemy to bond China's impressive passers in Japan starting next this month.

The Jordanians seemed to have the edge over their two main rivals as they sustained their unexpected run to the championship in this six-night staple round tournament by clipping pesty Lebanon, 92-88, to improve their standing record to 5-1.

The Americans took sole second at 4-2 after downing Kazakhstan, 93-78.

Jordanian fell to 3-3 along with RP and Iran while the Kazakhs stood at 1-5.

Hontiveros delivered 2000 Filipinos in the sparse gallery of 3,000 at the Xinzhuang gymnasium in Taipei County. Yap unloaded his first 11 points to help lift the Socsksargen to a 31-46 halftime lead.

Kelly Williams and JJ Hitchcroad took over early in the second half before back-to-back triples by Yap and Alagoz sparked a 19-point explosion that pushed RP's lead to a whopping 15 points at 76-61.

When the buzzers, who boast 7-footer Lu'son Daniel Blanch, closed in at 81-75, Gabe Norwood unloaded a 3 and three Caguioa added a layup and another triple to set the final score with still a minute and 20 seconds left.

Alagoz and Caguioa finished with 14 points each while Williams added 12 that included a halfway dunk that nearly brought the house down in the third quarter.

As usual, Jon Tadlan powered his mouth by holding his ground against Ehsahd, who stood almost a head above him.

The Filipinos, who will play host Taiwan next at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow, played in front of PBA commissioner Noli Eala and injured Talk 'N Text coach Jong Uichico and Tony dela Cruz, who arrived here earlier in the day.

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL-RP (89)—Yap 19, Caguioa 14, Alagoz 14, Williams 12, Hontiveros 8, Norwood 8, Tadlan 5, Mercado 4, Hontiveros 4, Ilustrisimo 2, Ingenieroso, Pumaren

IRAN (75)—A. Barmayi 21, E. Barmayi 16, Ehsahd 14, Rezaei 5, Nikbakht 5, Mirzaeifi 5, Tarjani 3, Mirmohammadi 3, Ilustrisimo 2, Ingenieroso, Pumaren

Quarters: 16-14, 31-46, 58-61, 89-75

Hope Christian claims GVL trophy

HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL booted on the strike of Carmela Carbin, fervently Chan and Anne Ann Nicholas to subdue Christian of Saint Tomas, 20-19, 23-17, 27-25, remember and win the first season of the Mother's Girl Volleyball League at the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym in Quezon City.

Carbin, named the 2006 Most Valuable Player, combined with Ann Marilee Claro and Ann's sister Peters for 30 points, including 19 kills, as Hope Christian proved to overcome over UST in the elimination round was no fluke.

"We're very happy that our preparations with coach Jerry [Yee] and assistant coach Caroline [Del Rosario] said," said the 16-year-old Carbin, a high school senior, in 10 games.

Hope Christian, which failed to reach the finals of last year's collegiate, then regained the title it last won in 2005.

Best attacker Shenja Bautista, Kim Fajardo and Alyssa Valdez-Suntay led for 64 points, including 35 kills, but UST, which was denied of the crown for the third straight time.

Ch. Pamela of Annie subdued defending champion University of the East, 25-18, 23-25, 26-24, 25-21, in their battle for third place in the event presented by Mikasa's Wax and supported by Tokyo Sports, Mikasa and more. #Marvin Marcelino, Contributor

Lonosa snaps RP wrestling slump

By Jaime Maranora

JOHN LONOSA ERASED THE stigma of a winless opening-day campaign after handling Argentina Sedgen of Kazakhstan to the women's freestyle reveal of the 2007 Asian Juniors Wrestling Championships yesterday at the Hissy Aquatics Stadium.

A member of the national team in 2006, Lonosa pinned Ocsana to the stunned Talkpe for a 5-0 win that gave the Filipinos a breakthrough victory following three successive setbacks in the Gazi Cross Bronze on Friday.

Lonosa, however, cut short her victory ride after Japan's Saho Shoiko sent the 19-year-old Filipina crashing back to earth with a 3-0 (unpublished second round).

Still, Lonosa managed to sneak into the quarterfinal for a shot at bronze in the 44-kilogram event against South Korea's Kim Hye Ae, who also lost her bout to Sin Ae in the preliminary round via a 3-0 count.

Joining Lonosa in the repechage was Noriel Sitoy, whose eventual finalist Phan Thi Hai of Vietnam shut down, 3-0, in their match. Sitoy will take on Bholsaikhan Baterdene of Mongolia in the bronze-medal round of the 52-kg category, which was still being played in presstime.

"Knowing the repechage is definitely a big deal for me," said Lonosa in Filipino. "I learned now fighting strategies after the first two rounds and I expect to learn more against Sito."

But while Lonosa and Sitoy were fortunate enough to keep alive the repechage, Jash, a second, downed Maria Christine Oshita, who got swept off the mat by Rose Almario's Eleonora Abouliponos, 3-0, in her initial salvo.

Meanwhile, Jose dominated the host Green Romans team.

The Iranian handed four gold and four silver medals out top of 8 teams to emerge as the overall champion in the event for the second consecutive year.

The Iranians, who scored a total of 170 points, actually edged out Kazakhstan, who had a 3-1-2 gold silver bronze collection for 67 points.

SPORTSWATCH

Asian karting 2nd leg starts July 19

THE SECOND LEG OF THE 2007 ASIAN KARTING OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP debuted at the 2000 Shell Auto-Casino Filipino Kart Grand Prix will be held July 19-22 at the Carmona Circuit Philippines. Four 80-karters from nine countries, including China and Japan, are expected to vie for titles filled at stake in the national events. Officials from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand also have entries. Mosaic appears to be the biggest threat to the Philippines' bid for the overall title. Without any Filipino entries to question its chances, Marcus Ang, Anthony Alvarez and Mark Kai can boggled the memory. Mechanical engineering student-cum-kart racer Carmelo Ejercito Estrada, son of Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada, is also competing in the event. #Rose Paris at ST CENTER

Palanca sets course record, wins US Kids

PALANCA: Boy wonder

FILIPINO BOY WONDER PHILIPPE PALanca became the July 6 edition of the US Kids Golf Tour in controlling Andrew meeting.

The 8-year-old Palanca finished the par 3, 9th hole at Boulder Creek Golf Club in Boulder City, Nevada, en route to a course record even-par 36.

Palanca, who hit the tournament drive for the 8-10 years International Golf Tournament hosted by the Internet in May at Pinoy Rock Pool, then matched the feat of Jim "Jr." Ramos, who was also 8 years old when he ruled his age group in the 40-55 Kids Pinoy Golf in 2005.

But coach Sylvia Tarrow, who saddled Ja Palanca in the event, said the victory boosted his small's chances in the Fall-years Junior World Championship-set July 17-19 in San Diego, California.

Int'l Pairs duo finishes eighth

THE ANIA GREENFIELDS PAIR OF ALICE Salazar, Jr. and Bea De Peeta failed to recover from a last hole blow-up in the first day, settling for a share of eighth place in the International Pairs world title at the Mt. Andrews Bay Golfers in St. Andrews, Scotland.

After making a double-bogey on the par-5 last hole that pushed them from second to 11th in the first round with 37 points, Salazar-tually played by himself the next day and just couldn't make things happen.

De Peeta had a good day but it was not by solo contribution he made on Day 2 as he even had to leave his partner all by himself on the course when he could no longer endure the chilly conditions on the Tarvaton course of the Fairmont Links.

"We got knocked by the very cold rain on the course as early didn't help us any as we were already tagging behind," said Salazar, who fought hard enough to account for the 35 of the 36 points RP made on the final day.

De Peeta excused himself for three holes due to a severe cramp but was able to change his net worth. With his condition, he became a non-factor all the way for the RP team supported by Callahan and Callaway.

The Greenfields pair's 75 was just six points shy of the winning 81 points total logged by the Scottish pair of Campbell, Macintosh and Ireland. England was in neighbors to a sudden chart-placed to become the four-world champions.

Pebe Cortes, event licensee of International Pairs, will headed the RP pair for finishing eighth out of the 200 teams in the field.

"The boys were very disappointed of [the] adjusted well and quick enough to the conditions," he said.

Cortes and Gary Sales lifted the champion's trophy last year for the Philippines in the two-day athletic meet the first-half with three Asiatic handicap format.

Del Rosario joins Kawasaki

FILIPINO PROFESSIONAL JET SKI MEMber Paul del Rosario recently signed up as part of Kawasaki's growing family of champion riders in the country.

The deal was consummated between Del Rosario and Kawasaki's business-head Sales chief Jon Mike del Rosario and Kawasaki Philippines main office in Mandaluyong City.

Jon Mike based getting Paul on to serve as direct to Kawasaki's contribution to the country's sports development and quest for success in the international scene.

"This is our way of giving back the big support the Filipino people has accorded us through the years," said Jon Mike.

PAUL DEL Rosario (center) with Jon Mike del Rosario (left) and Arriel Jacot.

Donaire seeks world titles vs Darchinyan

FILIPINO-AMERICAN NONITO DONAIRE will attempt to win two world titles today as he challenges the hard-punching IBF and IBO flyweight champ Vic Darchinyan at the Hurbour View Arena in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Donaire has been ranked as the No. 1 flyweight for a world crown in the last 24 bouts, as Filipino Daniles was also slated to take on IBF minimum weight champion Muhammad Rachman in JAKARTA, Indonesia, last night.

Both Darchinyan and Donaire came in at an even 112 lbs in tomorrow's official weigh-in.

The Philippine does not have a world titleholder as the moment, and a victory by either boxer, or both of them, is expected to be welcomed by Filipinos around the world.

Manny Pacquiao, although touted as the world's best super featherweight, does not own a world title at the moment.

But Donaire is also expected to meet tough sailing against Darchinyan, who is considered one of the hardest-punching champions in the world today, pound-for-pound.

The undefeated southpaw Darchinyan, who is based in Australia, has 22 knockouts in 26 wins, and has eliminated three Filipino fighters prior to today's fight.

Donaire, 24, had known Rosario's brother Glenn last year, and the younger Donaire says he is not out for revenge but for punishment against Darchinyan. The fast-hands, California-based Donaire boasts a 17-1, 14 KO record, and is younger at 24. #Arriel L. Lagumbay, Contributor

No divine assistance for Phone Pals?

IN HUDDLE

Bartolo Colón

Count this Williams in

Venus faces 'Bond girl' Bartoli in Wimbledon final

PARADOX Bartoli falls in her knees after winning top-seed Justine Henin in the case moment's biggest upset that far. AP

Roddick blows two points, big lead

RODDICK AP

Bucks finally meet with Yi

YI AP/File

Archers rip Maroons. . .

Filter Kings nip Ticel 5

Chinese bets RP Open top seeds

Endorsements start for No. 1 pick Oden

ODDEN: Wore a pin-stripe

Ramirez, Flores rule karate kids tourney

BASEBALL PHILIPPINES

Makati, Negros vie for title

BOTH ARMED WITH TOP-NOTCH pitchers and boasting a hostile-ready crowd, Makati and Negros collide today for the inaugural title of the Baseball Philippines tournament at the Rizal Memorial Ballpark.

National team veteran Ernesse Jimenez will start for the Negros Boosters as he did the past three games, hoping to score up with the same effort as his no-relief job Sunday that powered his team to a 6-4 victory over Manila in the crossover semifinals.

Makati Warriors team manager Jeffrey Santiago, on the other hand, didn't reveal his game plan first by stating SF team pitcher Raul Batiste the past two games and using reserves Jaspin Bohlen and Christian Cardeo, it is clear his strategy will be unchanged on pitching as well.

League rules prevent Cardeo and Batiste, both OF team statesmen, to play in the same game, but it isn't a luxury Makati is deprived of as Bohlen, the UAAP MVP member from the University of Santo Tomas, has done well in his stint on the mound/first for for the Warriors.

"We will prepare for them because they are strong offensively," said Santiago in Filipino right after upsetting title-favorite Cebu, 5-4, to make the finals despite being the last team to make the cutoff.

Cardeo and Bohlen took turns in pitching against Cebu, which bumped into trouble when third-sacker pitcher Aiong Ilao gave quickly gave up five runs in the first inning.

Batiste aide Caballo took over late in the inning but the damage proved to be a irreparable despite Cebu scoring runs in the middle innings.

"Hopefully, we can ride on our momentum and our batters are ready to face a lefty like Ilaoism," added Santiago, who desired the UST Tigers to ever titles.

Makati will be the head point of the Rizaleers' bid to become the first champion of the tournament. Mike Anthony Bayo

Coach E goes to Parañaque

MAPUA MCKENZIE SPORTS SCHOOL IN Marikina, Parañaque, joined the Coach E Basketball School roster as classes started this month to several Metro Manila areas. Individual Basketball Academy (IBA) president Joey Reyes announced that the classes at Maria Montessori are set every Friday at 11:3 pm and will include six opening schedules for 11 years old and below students in cooperation with the school foundation. For details, call the Coach E hotline at 433-1186 or 0927-1642828, during office hours from Mondays to Fridays or log on to iba_phil@yahoo.com and www.coach-e.com. For Xavier School classes, participants may call 723-0401. School curriculum includes Course Module 1 (introductory phase of basketball skills), Course Module 2 (transition to more advanced basketball skills) and Course Module Three (transition to applied basketball in an actual game setting).

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Auf wiedersehen, Joachim

WB exec bids RP goodbye with fondness

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MOST FOREIGNERS AND many Filipinos cringe at just the thought of eating dalut or chalk endorjo, let alone actually sticking their teeth into the half-formed chick.

But World Bank country director Joachim von Amsberg, who left the Philippines last week to take up his new post in Jakarta, Indonesia, developed a taste for the exotic native delicacy.

"They say that you don't really know when you're going to get where you eat balut, but my experience has been good. I really find it very tasty," von Amsberg told lunchtime in an interview the day before he left for Jakarta.

The 45-year-old German national said that his pleasant encounter with the balut nearly sums up his stint in the Philippines, in the sense that the country may seem like a scary place to go in and do business in, but not when you get to know it.

And von Amsberg has gotten to know the country well in his three years in the Philippines.

Good governance

Thus, while others have been lamping on their bad experiences with the country ridden with graft, corruption and political flickering, von Amsberg preferred to talk instead about the "kernels of good governance" in the Philippines that inspire the belief that the Philippines is still on its way to a slow but sure economic growth.

He defined these "islands" as effective public institutions...from the smallest local government units to line departments—that provide valued services that the public pays them to do through fees and taxes.

These include the Department of Education, which is implementing the Third Elementary Education Project to help upgrade the quality of elementary education in 23 poor provinces; the fifth class municipality of Sorsogon in Bicol; the Bureau of Customs that is implementing its own customs modernization program (customs project); and the Manila Water Co., which is succeeding in the improvement of water quality and sewerage system in its concession area.

Change of strategy

Under von Amsberg's rule at the helm of the World Bank in the Philippines, the bank changed its country assistance strategy from supporting small big-ticket infrastructure and policy support programs to channeling its assistance to support these "islands of good governance."

It did so with the thought that if the performance of even just a few vital public institutions and the delivery of key public services can be significantly improved, the public may demand similar good governance conduct from other public institutions as well.

Von Amsberg, who has a doctorate in Finance and Economic Policy from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, has always believed that by making the public institutions more accountable to the people, they will become more efficient, forced to do a better job and the people, in turn, will be encouraged to participate in public policy debates.

The Philippines is the only country where the World Bank has adopted its "islands of good governance" approach as a country assistance strategy, and it is making some headway because the bank has found strong partners in the government, academe and civil society who are willing to work with the bank toward the same goal of development for the Philippines.

Meaningful stay

He said his three years in the Philippines were meaningful because Filipinos—from the highest-ranking government officials to the ordinary farmer and fisherman—had been welcoming and ready to work with people, even foreigners like him.

"In other countries, I would say which, I always felt like kind of an intruder, which was not the case here. People are always ready to find welcome," he said.

He related how during his first few months in the Philippines, he found himself the head juror of a Miss Barangay contest in San Fernando, La Union, which was in the middle of a fiesta cele-

MORE B2

VON AMSBERG inspecting one of the World Bank's basic services projects in RP

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Learning made easy and fun for the young ones

By Jo Anne E. Padierna
and Kenneth M. del Rosario

HE WAS AN ACCIDENTAL entrepreneur.

Without any prior business experience and no formal entrepreneurial training, Adrian Tham left his teaching post in a primary school and ventured putting up his own business with the help of his family.

Edrin, a former primary school teacher in Malaysia, took notice of how his students could not fully comprehend the lessons he was teaching in class. He felt that his students were merely memorizing the formulas in order to get high scores during examinations.

This prompted him to quit teaching in a traditional school and inspired him to think of a way to make learning much more fun and easy for the young ones, and he came come up with Edrin Brain Gym as a living for his family.

Edrin then started designing a program and incorporating the use of the abacus which he believes can help young learners understand numbers better and gain a much easier grasp of answer arithmetic concepts.

EDUCUS Tham

Supplemental program

The result? A supplemental school program called Brian!, Incorporated, Programme (EIP). The innovation, patented in 1999, utilizes sensory touch through abacus manipulation using the fingers which facilitates better flow of information between the nerve cells and the brain, Edrin said.

This activity results in boosting the child's dexterity and visual-motor coordination. EIP also boasts of pioneering the use of the "alpha brain"—melodies that are meant to help students create more intuitive brain by "tuning out the overthought ha" in their brains while they work.

EIP utilizes the abacus to enhance children's learning abilities by developing the child's left and right brain hemispheres (as opposed to the traditional way of teaching where the left and right brain are rarely, if ever, trained and exercised simultaneously).

Growth of EIP

Edrin first tested the program to his then 7-year-old daughter. He used an abacus and a diamond-shaped beads which, according to Tham's presentation, activates the brain once the fingers touch them.

"My daughter enjoyed the program very much and actually thought she was just playing a game," Edrin said the business, stressing that the program's "holistic approach" do not force students to learn but rather encourage them to do so.

His child's enthusiasm to operations was the confidence he needed to share this with other people—first to his other children, then to his community and nation and now to the Philippines.

It was from 1999 to 1997 that saw the growth of the EIP Programs, which usually takes eight to 12 months. In 1995, Edrin was invited to a Malaysian TV show, which allowed him to spread the word about the program to a much bigger audience.

A couple of years later in 1997, he put up the first EIP Academy in Indonesia. In 2003, the local deputy of education decided to include the EIP Program in the curriculums of all government primary schools. This resulted in a 17-percent improvement in the students' overall class performance across the country.

Formative stages

EIP Academy offers different programs for children aged five to 12, the level most receptive to children, the values of the program. They teach as they are still in their formative stages, the expressions said.

"In EIP we don't focus much on the academic side. Instead, we teach children to have more confidence, higher self-esteem and longer memory retention," he continued.

Now an international learning center, Edrin said his team is on a mission to help children overcome their fear of numbers and optimize their brain potential.

EDUCUS helps young learners understand numbers better and gain a concrete grasp of abstract arithmetic concepts.

Fun learning

"It is fun to learn here in EIP," said 8-year-old Aaron Ang, a Grade-4 student in MOC Pew Life on Four Bonifacio, who started taking EIP lessons last October.

Because he attends school only shortly on schooldays, Aaron takes his EIP classes on Saturdays. Last summer vacation though, Aaron took what one of his tutor he took up his advanced lessons three times a week—Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

In EIP, Aaron said he is very happy and feels much more confident in learn. "I love to EIP, I used have to raise my hand or ask permission if I want to speak," referring to the relaxed ambiance of their classrooms. "My classmates and teachers are very nice and kind as well," he said.

Ezeh Villarosa, another student taking up advanced EIP lessons with Aaron, said his grades at his school in Jubilee Christian University in Quezon City (Grade 5 now Grade 2) has proved a lot. And he credits this partly to EIP.

"My grades in Math, English and Chinese are a lot better. I also now find it easier to understand our lessons at school," he said.

Not meant to compete

Edrin reiterated, though, that the things they teach in EIP are not meant to compete with the traditional way of learning at school. Instead, he considers this as a supplemental program, which he is positive will help children do better at their own respective schools. And since children only need to attend classes once a week in a second a half-hour class, it should pose no problem with the children's other extracurricular activities, he added.

Today, EIP has the largest network in Southeast Asia and is the fastest growing brain enhancement program.

"The program has come a long way since [then]," Edrin said, referring to the more than 300,000 students and 950 centers it now has in 12 different countries including centers in Thailand, Dubai, Sri Lanka, Bahrain, the US, UK, Oman, India and some in Philippines. Learning centers in Bangladesh and Maldives are now also being constructed.

Ecija farmers...

From page B1

regular buyers like Dr. Raymond Gigoy comes twice a month to Aloe Boring.

Gigoy, a veterinarian, helps promote the Aloe operation by enrolling those in Cagayan City.

KTPA's farmer-to-farm story is located 170 km from Manila via the Mabalihia Highway. It is 17 km from San Jose City.

On top of these commercial enterprises, the KTPA has become a learning center for agribusiness, integrated farming and making of charcoal and briquetted smoke.

The liberalization and modern and cooperative from various parts of the country come and stay for a few days to learn techniques here.

KTPA members have a lot of experiences and insights to share because they have gathered as much since they began contract tobacco in with the DENR in 1998, seedlings production in 1999, community-based forestry management agreement in 2001 and the two commercial operations in 2005.

The most important lesson, said Trinidad, is going back to "Sapatohan [cooperation]."

"Ang mindset is sa magkaway-laang (We help one each other)," she said, adding: "We earn 60 cents/hour from poverty if we don't work together. We can't promote the environment if we don't work together."

Auf Wiedersehen, Joachim

From page B1

location at that time.

"I brought with me a speech sheet titled 'asset management.' I realized that was the wrong topic for the opening speech," he says, "that was a very special experience."

So special is the ride he brought with him to Jakarta the plague of oppression that he got for seriously judging the concession.

Sovereignty

The plague is one of the two main accusers from his way to the Philippines—the other being the family on board. "Strong ties" from the Philippines of Makati that his wife, Angela Rhea, and three daughters absolutely refused to leave the Philippines without.

Von Amsberg said the willingness of Filipinos to engage with others helps establish why the country has carved a niche in the services industry—call centers included—because Filipinos have a natural affinity for service and for relating to different cultures.

But at the same time, he described Filipinos as having very complex layering of the overlay of cultures through the centuries, with traits borrowed from the early tribes to the Spanish and American colonizers.

"But when you begin to understand the social structures, some new layers appear. I am always learning," von Amsberg said.

Traditional governance

He added that the overlay of structures was also evident in the governance structure, in that the supposedly modern institutions, such as Congress and government agencies, are run according to the traditional governance structures.

This is why these institutions work better in developed countries like the United Kingdom and the northern states of the United States, he said, from the accents of Makati that his wife, Angela Rhea, and three daughters absolutely refused to leave the Philippines without.

"Those informal power structures, traditional governance systems are really challenges to the Philippines," he said.

Easing and diving

The traditional power structure, however, is not the only factor of Philippine life that von Amsberg learned in three years.

He said he has also taken a liking to eating five times a day to the point that his 14-year-old daughter now fondly calls him her "fat daddy."

Von Amsberg also learned how to dive in the Philippines, with Balicasag Island in Bohol a favorite destination, and developed a taste for durian, which turns off many people because of its unmistakable, pungent smell.

"You just have to open up your mind and taste [both] to what the country has to offer," he said.

Von Amsberg said he would always be a fan of the Philippines and that he will look at how the Philippines progresses from his vantage point in Asia.

He sincerely hopes that one day, he will look back into history and say that the Philippines got its act together.

"All the wonderful ingredients are there—the people, the resources. The Philippines is ready," he said.

AN INVITATION TO ALL LAWYERS

Special MCLE* at Manila Polo Club

A Leader's Way

From page B4

In the Law of the Inner Circle says, "A leader's potential is determined by those who follow him or her."

Sadly, many people's talents languish on the job because they are disengaged. Likely, the greatest waste in business is human potential. Leaders still end the potential inside of their people by inspiring and motivating. They can spark the life-opportunities for growth, for ourselves, or equip their employees with resources.

3. Renounce counterculture.

Great leaders reinvent continuously on a personal level. They are always interested in ways to enhance their own knowledge and skills. The very best leaders are learners. They realize that if they stop learning, they will stop leading.

4 Leaders sets the tone of the organization. If they cause growing personality, then the majority of those they lead will become negative as well.

Innovation is critical to survival. The solution to problems of the past are inadequate to address the demands of today. Leaders must have fresh, innovative thinking and new ideas to engage in the challenges the organization faces.

4. Value results and relationships.

When it comes to results and relationships, the best leaders take a both-and approach. It focus solely on results destroys the team, while focusing on relationships undermines the bottom line due to conflict avoidance and an absence of accountability.

The greatest leaders make friends and enemies.

Leaders earn relational capital, and put it to work to gain results. As the Law of Connection states, "leaders touch a heart before they ask for a hand."

5. Embody values.

All genuine leadership is built on trust. Leaders build trust when they establish, articulate, model and enforce values. In short, they walk the talk.

If I say customers are important, my actions had better support that statement. If I choose to live as if customers are not important, people will have reasons to question my statements.

And in the final analysis, if I am deemed untrustworthy by my people, I will not be trusted—or followed as a leader.

Review

1. See the future.
2. Engage and develop others.
3. Renounce counterculture.
4. Value results and relationships.
5. Embody values.

Jim Blanchard's workshop, The Inner Circle, is offered by Still & Light Ministries Inc. for the benefit of Inland Vision Foundation, Cell Health Clinic, project manager at 813-2730-32 or mail www.stillandlight.ph.

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or team work workshops, please e-mail us at leaders.ph@gmail.com or call 813-2000/2732 and ask for Jess or Ring. Jim MAXWELL (09-16-9532 1394/1-10 per daily EMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.

CHARCOAL temperature: 25 pieces are packed and sold at P 11 per kilogram.

CHARCOAL made from farmers' wastes embedded by machine

Nueva Ecija farmers help fight global warming

Text and Photos by Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

GABALDAGAL, MEDIA, ECIJA—"Between me and Trinidad Mendoza and 34 upland farmers here are their own kind of global warming busters.

They care for their corner of the world by nurturing a 15-hectare upland, by making charcoal out of woody thorn and by stopping the use and, in liquefied form, is used as soil conditioner.

The makeshift beds of their group, the Kilalahanan Tree Planters Association, take more environmental significance than do the actions of their city fathers' work, according to Gladys Rubi Claudio, a forester for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

They do these in the middle of logged over forests in the Gabaldon Mountains and amid cramped makeshift charcoal-making in Barangay Pantoc, Gumbo said.

The first was a result of unbridled commercial logging in post-World War II years, which paved the way for migrants, it set a manufacturing activity of the first, seeing farmers gather what was left of the forests, cutting down sturdier trees and baking these into carbon cinder or cooking fuel.

"When we arrived in here in 1979 because we had no land to tear from our life in Nueva Ecija, what were left of the forest were silkarapdag and lauan trees," recalled Valentin, 60, chair of the KTPA.

Like the ordinary settlers in Panama, which now counts 800 households, they cleared the forests and cultivated vegetables on slopes during rainy months. From October to May, it was back to traditional charcoal-making.

The practice continues to this day. On Sundays, the farmers cut chunks of timber, if observed by the residents, seeing to be picked up by trucks. Every act via Barangay Sabo, which markets are home to nearly the towns are. Other upland plots.

In Sitio Bowing, however, a different kind of charcoal is being produced at the factory of the KTPA. Called charcoal briquettes, these come in round shape and less compact form.

At least 25 pieces, with a weight a total of one kilogram, sell for only P 11 a pack.

Cash from biomass

Trinidad, the treasurer of the KTPA, said that members take turns making charcoal briquettes out of the bamboo varieties of bayo and kabitan, the grass varieties of sagon and bagacay, bean stalks, sunflowers and ground nuts branches from their agricultural.

Other biomass like coconut husk and pa- lmyra husks that are thrown away by-lako shells, bamboo and furniture are also used.

TRINIDAD Mendoza with a packed of briquettes

"Based, gumawa ng kalan (We produce the use of them)," Trinidad said of the group's policy in making charcoal.

Began in May 2006, this project involves only chip process.

The biomass is first charcoaled. It is in the initial step that the smoke is trapped and prevented to escape to the atmosphere. The container is gathered in shelter, and is liquefied smoke.

The charcoaled materials are then ground into powder. These are mixed with a special starch.

In the fourth step, the thick substance is pumped into molders. These are vase-shaped for them days.

In the final step, the briquettes are packed in mixed cartons.

Barrators from the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna, and Japan International Forestry Promotional Center taught them the technology. The Japan Bank for International Cooperation helped KTPA buy the three machines, Claudio said.

Alternative cooking fuel

Trinidad said that amid the rising prices of liquefied petroleum gas, charcoal briquettes are a "cheaper, efficient and cleaner source of cooking fuel."

"Six pieces are all you need to cook rice, boil water or fry fish in stove," she said, adding one does not need to use gas to set this on fire, a few strips of newspaper will do.

This new kind of charcoal produces less smoke, she said.

The briquettes are now sold at stock this organized by the DENR as well as by the farmers of agriculture, agrarian reform, trade and industry, Claudio said.

KTPA members use the liquefied smoke in organic soil conditioner, insecticide and fungicide mixture for chrysanthemum and rose they grow in their farms and the seedlings they take care of in their common nursery, saving them money for what should have been spent buying chemicals for farmers.

It adds for P25 for every 200-gram bottle. A teaspoon mixed in a liter of water gives a long-way cure for frozen gardens, Trinidad said.

But living and continuing these environment-friendly ways are a struggle, the Mendozas example said.

Her son, their toddlers cope with the demands of the market.

The tree-head gains hobbies through its branches in San Jose City, wanted to be supplied with 400 kgs of briquettes daily. The deal did not get off.

"We could only produce 300 kgs a day and then, businesses were impatient," Trinidad said.

Then, too, farmers could not regularly tend to their farms if they opened more of the time for the daily transactions.

On Rubi farm in search of the bolo- ey, four workers clean the PS bills sent for every kilogram of briquettes. Another P6 goes to paying the electricity. They make a profit of P5 per kilogram. Rudi gave cash in the initial stages, from donated or dividends to its members composed of 56 men and 19 women.

When there are more expenses to pay like before, the more pay-day among the members prefer to leave their Tabor earned to farm that per P100 a day, Mendoza said.

"There are many orders but we could not meet all of them," Trinidad said.

Because they have not established any credit yet except during trade fairs, EM-IG

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Sunday BIZ

Secrets of servant leadership

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

AFTER PRINCESS DIANA WAS killed in a tragic car accident, 2 ½ billion people tuned in to watch her celebrated funeral. Not only Great Britain, but the entire world, mourned her death. What accounted for the public's emotional attachment to Princess Di?

Certainly, royalty and beauty attributed to Princess Diana's popularity, but something else connected her to the hearts of people across the globe.

Looks and lineage may have hooked her on magazine covers, but Princess Di had an endearing quality that gave her even greater appeal. Princess Diana was beloved because she was a servant leader.

For centuries, royal families epitomized self-serving leadership. Unanimously removed from the day-to-day toddler of those in their kingdom, they enjoyed opulent wealth and absolute power. Princess Diana broke the mystique.

She leveraged her popularity to lend support for AIDS research, to care for those with leprosy and to ban land mines. In fact, the force of Diana's compassion was so influential that Time Magazine named her one of the 100 Most Important People of the 20th Century.

Practices that help leaders serve others

In their valuable book, "The Secret," Ken Blanchard and Mark Miller shed light on the practices that enable leaders, like Princess Diana, to serve others.

In this edition of a leaders blog, I'd like to pass on three ideas to you.

1. See the future.

Leaders have a compelling vision for the future stirring inside of them. The vision makes plain a leader's identity, character and purpose of behavior.

To affect the future, a leader spreads values throughout an organization. These values are contagious that become the cornerstones of organizational culture. A wise leader publishes the values so that they can be repeated, recognized and rewarded.

A leader cannot delegate the responsibility to see the future. They may share the responsibility, but ultimately, it's the leader's job to make time today to ensure the direction of tomorrow.

2. Engage and develop others.

To create the future a leader envisions, he or she must have the right people, in the right roles, fully engaged to their work. Everything that you will accomplish as a leader ultimately hinges on the people you have around you.

A LEADER'S 101

'Wellness intent' makes couple invest in vegan's diner

Text and Photos by Juan Escandor Jr.
Vega City

COUPLE POPE AND NANCY CRUZ serve breakfast, snacks, lunch and dinner every day, except Sundays, but their love vocation of dishes without poultry, meat, fish, shellfish, dairy, synthetic ingredients and highly processed food products.

Pope, who also helps the dishes, revealed they opened their place to contain the benefits of eating only fruits or, guide fruits, vegetables, root crops and whole grains.

He said he was converted to vegetarianism in 1997 when he and Nancy were searching for ways to avoid emerging health problems in their young family.

"I was diagnosed with a high level of uric acid and gasping for breath while my asthmatic was low.

HUSBAND and wife Pope and Nancy Chiu, owners of Green Earth Cafe.

ting my mobility by 5 year old son was diagnosed with symptoms of rheumatic fever. Our medical bills were mounting," Pope described the circumstances the year he was forced to shift to a vegetarian diet.

Not long after, Pope became an advocate of a strictly vegetable and organic food diet which, he said, corrected the imbalance in his body and restored the healthy heart of his son.

Pope said the idea of opening a vegetarian diner named "Green Earth Cafe" surfaced when they decided to change their lifestyle and adopt a completely vegetarian diet in their family.

This meant discarding the contemporary diet they were so used to since they were young, such as coffee, hot dogs, noodles and other instant food which correspond to the busy lifestyle of working parents.

As the start, Pope said he proclaimed his own "raw manorial" for the daily vegetarian diet which has to be in quantity to be affordable.

He said a lot of time was spent preparing the content, including preserving his own info and sauces for a variety of dishes.

To sustain their new lifestyle, the couple taught their friends some menus, prodded them to try the vegetarian diet and sold them organic food products.

The operation of the only vegetarian and organic restaurant followed.

Innovations

Pope and Nancy said they made innovations on the different vegetarian cuisine they researched through the Internet and selected those that could be prepared here using locally grown and available ingredients.

"The vegetarian diet need not be bland," Nancy said. "It must be enjoyable because it has a natural taste," unlike the synthetic taste added to dishes."

He said, however, that their dishes do not pretend to be something else as these do not mimic the taste of meat, fish or dairy products.

The couple aimed to serving dishes which pleased the discriminating tastes of their friends and kin, from the very organic lemon grass tea to the more meticulously prepared bread jacket, which consists of vegetable and fruit cubes bathed in a milky parkinsoni sauce and stuffed in a dough.

For healthier

Nancy confessed they were introduced to the vegetarian diet through friends in the NGO community in Manila who discovered that the traditional diet of villagers were far healthier than that of city dwellers.

Her friends started experimenting on menus prepared by villagers and studied how the ingredients were selected based on what was available in the village.

They observed that the dishes contained scarcity of vegetables, fruits and whole grains which they claimed improved the villagers' immune system and made them less prone to illness and allergies.

The sharing of experiences became a small discussion group on wellness and diet until it developed into an advocacy center for health, for diet and wellness against the mass produced commercial foods and food products.

Advocacy center

With the creation of an advocacy center, they continued with their mission of introducing ways to a healthful diet by conducting small group orientation meetings and free regarding natural and organic foods like.

Nancy said it took them a while to completely shift to a vegetable and organic diet from the "modern food diet" which harbors toxins due to chemicals introduced in the mass production of food.

But 10 years into their vegetarian diet, some friends came to calling their "cultists" to their successful shift from "modern food" to vegans' food.

Nancy said the change in diet meant to tend to achieve the benefits of restoring the natural immune system and healing of the body.

Nancy's mother

Gloria Hurtada, Nancy's septuagenarian mother, has no elaborate explanations how she embraced the vegetarian food espoused by Green Earth Cafe.

The fact that she walked across the street to the Green Earth Cafe was enough proof that she has been relieved of much of the heavy burden she had borne to endure for years since 1984.

Stricken with diabetes with complications like arthritis and hypertension, Gloria took medications daily but still felt sickly. But after months of vegan's diet, she has regained her strength.

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Cinchi Bunal-Formoso

at HOME

MIND-BLOWING. The Hirabi Bubble is capable of producing a rich subliminal display.

Bright lights, big sitting

Illuminated furniture is the new trend

CHEMISTRY. Outdoor daybed and lighted pot offer a picture of balance and harmony.

THE VISIONARY. Ong proves you can light your furniture and sit on it, too.

Text by Anna A. Jamboy
Photos by Jim Cinco Pascual

I'M TAKING THE WORDS, PLAY with emotions and set the mood. Life-changers, dinner under Stella magazine beams in an all-night society, or have a quiet dinner among muted bulbs. Indeed, nothing manipulates the human emotion as an instant the way lighting does. Avoid. Don't be light.

A new trend illuminates outdoor evening gatherings with contrasting lighted furniture. We, these are furniture that literally light up the night scene...but plug them into an electric outlet and they're good to go. Since the furniture come in white, changing colors is as simple as changing the colors of the bulbs.

"I first learned of this furniture during my trip to Dubai last year. I thought they would be well-suited to the tropical lifestyle we have here in the Philippines," said the young CEO of Living Innovations, Ed-mund Ong.

That Gigi is bringing into the country yet another line of novelty and it also should come as no surprise. Only a few years ago, his company introduced Cube computer, the multimedia Italian furniture Mind-Unspoken with the high end kitchen/sound Bulthaup and computer-grade cooking technology Siemens.

With showrooms on the 2/F Makati Shangri-La Powell Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati, Living Innovations (02. 890-2259, 0922-8497) also carries home luxury brands such as Casamidiano, Gallotti & Radice, Lapalma, Lubbe Modulo, Sandia Kissen and Shaun Slide, an Italian company specializing in lighted furniture, and Sandia Blanca, outdoor furniture and accessories from Spain. Surprising, the products look good together.

As the recent Manoil fiddle event at The Fort, the first of its kind in the country to be installed and designed by Monsenor Pablo...Ong showcased Gandia Blanca, traditionally used by hotels in suits and hotels also used as stand-alone ware, along with the luminous Island Slide. The chemistry is soothing short of charming.

Made from polyethylene plastic, Slide can be set to and color through rotomolded moldings, with lights still the main object for the furniture's curved forms and style. Designs are playful takes on basic forms...curves on square or serious. With allusions to modern forms, be in classic. Slide's loungeables, available big balls, can transform a regular pool into a breathtaking vision. The pouf/bean can to be just another body of water.

"Filipinos love the outdoors simply because it's cool here as any indoors. I think Slide is the perfect outdoor companion...and indoor furniture, too, for that matter—for people who want to put a little more excitement into their get-together affairs," Ong said.

Not quite sure if you need one? A whole line of Slide furniture is available for rent, Ong added. Dance with other lighting effects are also available.

Al fresco living

Outdoor living and entertaining also pertaining to open days in Gandia Blasco's field of expertise. Bespoke, day

HOME

CLEOTILDE Balagot with her Baldwin concert grand

SET of plates, cups and saucers with piano motifs as design from Cleotilde's late husband Patrick, and spoons, forks and knives designed with a treble clef from son Jose and wife Amy

STEINWAY and Young Chang upright pianos

Her tuneful menagerie

CANDLE holders

SWAN plates with a concert grand inside

HARP picture frames

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Rudy Espena

A TOP-OF-THE-LINE Steinway, a Baldwin concert grand, a Young Chang upright piano, a 1700 cello and a Mazzano (talizano) in one house? Why not if it's the home of Cleotilde Balagot?

A graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Music, Imper is piano and cello, Balagot has a musical collection that is part of her personal history. "Each tool has its own story," she says.

For all the music housed within the walls of Balagot's home in San Lorenzo, Makati, the place is remarkably quiet. But then, it's no wonder.

Aside from the musical instruments, the home contains about 500 musical objects, which are displayed in the living, dining and kitchen areas, not to mention the music room.

The collection has a connection to Balagot's life, skill and occupation. "The relationship between a pianist and cultural history is really interwined. There was a period when no home was complete without a piano in it. The piano used to be the center of the home," she says.

Balagot bought the upright Steinway in 1971 in the United States for $6,000. "My late husband Patrick availed me for it was more expensive there," she said. The Balagots paid $65 every month for four years for the piano and $85 every month for three years for the car. "It's no use having fine cars if the piano is still here," she says.

The Young Chang's counterpart is a new six-foot Baldwin concert grand that Balagot bought in 1983 in the US for $33,000. She plays for supervision, concurred on classics like Beethoven and Mozart, on this.

In the music room is a 1700 cello, which Balagot purchased in 1980 from her college professor, Marianne Figueroa, for $3,000. "He told me that if ever I plan to dispose it, he'd buy it back from me. He knew that cellos are much rare during the war, while his wife was carrying their child. So was rightly holding this cello."

Her former mentor's deep concern for the instrument has rubbed off on Balagot. She herself religiously cleans the cello and the pianos.

KEYS on the right notes

No grand design

Balagot says that her enchantment for her hobby "just seemed to happen. There was certainly no preconceived plan or grand design."

She remembers the thrill of seeing a pair of large ceramic figurines—a boy and a girl, playing the piano, which was given by her mother when she was a student at UP. "I was the first student girl I got. I was fascinated with them because I found them dramatic—the boy leaning the girl, who was annoyed by his antics, while they're learning music."

Balagot's collection began to increase in number after the family migrated to the US in 1969. Her family and students at the Amadeus School of Music and Arts in California were fond to give her musical items on special occasions or from trips abroad.

Her late husband Patrick gave her a set of plates, cups and saucers with piano motifs as design, which set he bought for more than $200. "I only use them when I have musician guests on special occasions," says Balagot.

To complete the dinnerware, her son Jose and his wife Amy bought her a set of spoons, forks and knives designed with a treble clef. Plus a wall clock adorned with photos of world-renowned musicians such as Philipp Imhoff, Mozart, Ludwig Van Beethoven, Frederic Chopin and Johannes Brahms.

Her daughter, Ms. Pia, gifted her a set of ceramic mugs playing the guitar, bass, accordion, trombone and drums. Her grandchildren have also given gifts to add to her collection. Michelle gave her two cello player miniatures in music, Raphael, music notebooks, and Gabrielle, stickers with Balagot's name and address and piano illustration, which can be used on letter envelopes.

"MUSICAL" umbrella

Music pedagogue Cleotilde Balagot keeps a 500-piece collection of instruments and musical odds and ends

School of music

Balagot was one of the three Filipino natures of the Amadeus School of Music and Arts. They put up the school primarily to lure Filipino musicians who had a hard time finding good jobs in the US.

When her husband, a chemist, died in 2006, she decided to close the 11-year-old school and return to the Philippines. "It was my sister and my daughter who convinced me to come home as they could take care of me."

Although the 500-piece collection has been her source of joy through the years, she says she will have no problem finding it to any museum interested in showcasing such objects.

Frustration

When Balagot's children chose to take different courses from hers, she got frustrated. "Not even my grandchildren are interested in playing musical instruments," says Balagot, who used to perform with orchestras like the Manila Symphony, UP Symphony, Manila Philharmonic and Philippine Philharmonic. Jose took up Psychology while Ms. Pia finished Interior Design.

"This is why I put focus on attention and energy on my two gifted nephews—Martin Herrera, 8, and Angelo Chikamoto, 7. They have such dedication to music that even when I supervised them, they don't get distracted."

Once a week, Balagot teaches music to neighbors, aged 8-10, at Taley Association in Bulacan, which was founded by Salesian priest, Fr. Godey Scarpellini. During her spare time, she does musical arrangements for piano and cello.

Some people may find her an advanced musician but for the 74-year-old Balagot, the distance between she draws from music makes her feel young.

TELEPHONE and pen holder designed with piano motifs

CONCERT grand wall clock

Sensible scents

Alice Blue Candle takes the familiar smells of breads and infuses them into ivory-colored candles

By Chary Mercado
Correspondent

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HOME: Fragrance positions in the market today makes one wonder if there is any real science behind the promise of a scent that can calm you.

The key is finding that certain smell that satisfies the deepest parts of your brain where your basic instincts, faculties, memories and strongest emotions lie.

So where should Filipinos go to find that scent that means something special from their past or evokes specific moods?

While most people would gravitate to the flowery scents like the lavender that Mom used to wear or the smoky scent of sandalwood from Dad's aftershave, there is another more played source of emotion smells...the kitchen!

Enter Alice Blue Candle. Started in May of 2005, this innovative scented candle manufacturer has taken the familiar, much-loved smells of Banana Nut Bread, Berry Crumble, Vanilla Sugar and Butter Cream and infused them into premier ivory-colored candles.

Tisha Warren-Gonzalez, founder and partner in the business, explained there are other unique reasons why these candles are so sought after by loyal customers as well as bazaar and mall patrons.

"We visualized a company that made products that are both environmentally sound and appealing to the senses," Warren-Gonzalez said. "Every one seems pleased with the quality of our candles. We've had many word-of-mouth referrals."

Alice Blue candles are all made from imported soy wax, which is a renewable resource and is biodegradable. Cleo cotton and paper wicks (no wires or nylon) are used. Using soy candles is also a help to the homeowner since soot from soy candles, if any, is gray or white, not black. This eliminates the dark shadow of soot (but often clings to light-colored walls when other candles are lit.

Alice Blue Candles are primarily sold on the ground floor of Glorietta 3 in Makati. They are also a customary in bazaars such as the monthly fair of the American Women's Club of the Philippines. The company delivers, depending on the quantity ordered and the location within the Metro Manila. It also ships to other areas of the Philippines and overseas.

The best-selling scents among women are White Tea and Ginger, Lemongrass, Bamboo, Peppermint and Lavender. For men, the popular scents have been Mediterranean Fig, Cranberry Spice, Sandalwood and Orange Clove, Cafe Mocha and Hot Chocolate from the Café Collection are popular as well. In fact, the Berry Crumble scent of candle is fit to the pie bottles of major malls in Makati, Alabang and Quezon City.

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Beyond the traditional

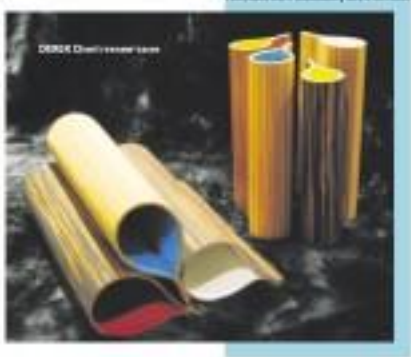
JADE ceramic vases

ALUMINUM basswood frame, silver pearl with basic silver chevron with base

NIGHT table pitcher, Marcia decanter black and white 3-bulb lamp, desk decanter with aqua bubbles

ABOVE: Glamour mirror, jewelry box, Victoria Hagan silver candlesticks, mirrored matchbook holder, soap dispenser and toothbrush holder

DEREK Cline's runner rugs



DEREK Cline's runner rugs

Text by Alice F. Vergara
Photos by Chris Hicks

Beyond Bamboo's experience proves that China isn't the only source for reasonably priced home décor

AS IT MARKS ITS SECOND YEAR IN the business, Beyond Bamboo, a home store on Jupiter Street in Makati, has started focusing on the works of a select group of foreign artists and designers.

On top of its wide range of furniture and accent pieces sourced both here and abroad, Beyond Bamboo is featuring the works of San Francisco-based designer Derek Cline on his handcrafted rugs and linens.

"Derek's pieces are sold in Neiman Marcus in San Francisco and several other stores in Tokyo," says Beyond Bamboo owner and marketing manager Sheila Romero. "In the Philippines, his work is one factor to us."

Made of such textures as ebony, macassar and lobster, the pieces in Cline's modern, minimalist line through either bold or lean wood frames laminated in acrylic. In essence, the items embody the homeowner's philosophy of providing its customers with traditional stuff with a modern twist.

Together with younger sister Trella Bermudez, an interior designer, Romero has been scouring the globe in search of unique and finished finds ranging from flatware, lamp shades, vases, mini decorators, embellishers, jewelry boxes, iPod cases and even home decors.

The wine decanters were exported from the United States and Poland, while the iPod cases were designed by renowned American furniture designer Michael Aram. The store also carries silver serving pieces from Cambodia and leather items in the form of magazine racks, wine bags and laminated trays from Thailand.

But one of Romero's personal favorites is a set of flatware and kitchen utensils with antique bone and bone accents that's proudly Philippine-made.

Inexpensive but interesting

Indeed, as Beyond Bamboo's experience proves, China isn't the only source for reasonably priced home décor. The range of fairly inexpensive but interesting items here—often consisting of simply surrounding one's home with a unique set of finds that more accurately captures the holiday spirit.

But one need not be in a "Bubble" mood to fall in love with the store's collection of crystal and glass items from Rosenthal and Rolf Sachs. Its collection of custom seating—starting at the foot of basswood sofas—is enough to liven up any room or office space.

Like a good number of pieces on display, these items originated from nameless designers. If you prefer more famous ones, there are quite a number of recognizable names and their products featured here.

Aside from China, Beyond Bamboo is also featuring pieces by such designers as Arthur Court, Patricia Urquiola, Bibi Poole and John Boswell.

Their works—particularly Bibi's acrylic lampshades and Russell's "Ghost" of a candelabra—are sure to appeal to young, modern-day condo dwellers, whether they're newlyweds or swinging singles.

As the store's name implies, there's more to furniture and accent pieces beyond traditional materials such as, well, bamboo. At Beyond Bamboo's brisk, they can be made of anything and everything to stop in they're tastefully designed and of consistent quality.

GHOST candelabra (as is)

ARTHUR Court's dog-proof drip runner

PABLO Picallo's cube lamps

MICHAEL Aram Shashlik carry-all Pouch

Bigger, brighter home haven

PHILIPPINE crafts and products on display at the newly renovated Homebox Department of SM's Galleria

SOMEBODY SOMETHING STORE RUNS outside the new look of its Homebox Department as in flagship ones in Robinsons Galleria.

A trip to the newly renovated department shows a bigger floor area, now twice the size of its previous space. This gives customers more room to shop with greater ease and convenience. The new features and brighter lighting also lend a more modern and contemporary appeal.

Customers will find everything they need for their home when they browse through the Housewear, Bed, Small Appliances, Housewares, Kitchenware, Glassware, Towels, Curtains, Storage, Décor, Homes, Bath, Philippine Crafts, Linen, Throw Pillows, Rugs, and Giftables sections.

BMF new Homebox Department showcases the best in shopping comfort and convenience as well as quality products at the best prices. Shoppers can more easily navigate the aisles and spot the products of their choice, such as BDS exclusive Margaret Blair bed linen, bed and bath by Home Essentials and dinnerware by Williams Sonoma.

They will also find new and exciting brands like Bath sensation, Kapamagagi Philippine crafts, Umbra frames, Emma and Emiliarelli plastic wares, Regent bathroomware and classic pieces from Oneida, among others.

NEW DISPLAY features and brighter lighting lend a more modern and contemporary appeal to the newly refurbished Homebox Department of SM's Galleria

Five-day Ikebana seminar

A FIVE-DAY SEMINAR/WORKSHOP on flower arrangement will be given by Setsuko S. Morilla, 1-6 p.m., July 16-22, at Mori's Plant Arts, Eng Loan Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank corner Elliz and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

The course will cover the different styles of Ikebana, as well as Western and free styles (Jiuhka).

The seminar shall also tackle sourcing of materials, flower shop operations, season art crafts arrangements, leaflet correspondence, garland making, bridal bouquet, corsage and other wedding ensembles.

All materials will be provided for the hands on, such as pruning scissors, flower stems, floral foams, floral tapes, wires, foliage and flowers.

Registration is now going on at Flower Mori in Seedling Bank. Early registrants who pay on or before July 13 will get a 10 percent discount.

Those who will take the course may qualify to become members of the Ikenobo Ikebana Society of Manila.

Call 9384935, 9351079 or 0917-8221352. E-mail morisplants@yahoo.com.

Ikenobo professor to lead workshop on Ikebana

SENIOR IKENOBA professor Manoko Noda from Kyoto, Japan is scheduled to conduct a seminar-workshop on the signature styles of the Ikenobo School of Floral Art on Feb. 26-28, 2008 for the members of the Ikenobo Ikebana Society of Manila headed by Ikebana junior professor Setsuko S. Morilla.

To be held at the Green, Golf Club house in Cumbalinao Gardens, QC, the specialized study include Shoka, Jiyuka and Rikka both classical and modern.

Those who are interested to participate in the seminar-workshop are requested to join the Ikenobo Society starting this month. Contact Ms. Morilla at 9384935, 0917-8221352 or e-mail morisplants@yahoo.com.

PROF. Manoko Noda demonstrates how to cut up a Rikka arrangement.

Bright lights...

From page C1

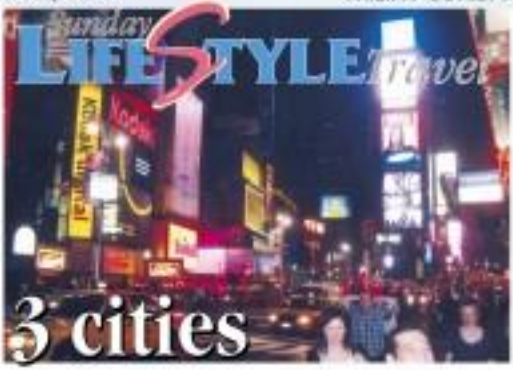
looks...of brass or stone. Also, with dewar covers, bed sheets, sheers, fabrics and cushions...all in original designs and prints.

Camille Muzac, with sole signor/philosophy built around "creating emotions," looks and feels fresh. Cog hopes to tap into the local hotel and resort industry although private homes have taken interest as well.

The Manzak company members together are small gem of unrefined industrials, favorable polish by time plastic materials and cloth. A modern piece calls for the marriage of metal and plastic to maximize clean lines. The fabric, however, softens the stiff appearance and lends the furniture a casual, free spirited design.

Cog's penchant for beauty is much worth the investment—and his ethnic/classic/exotic designs easily too well. See only do the pieces become objects of envy and desire, but the timeless designs also make them enduring possessions to last for generations.

E-mail the author at ajsenbora@inquirer.com.ph



By Antonio M. Claparols
Contributor

AS USUAL, THE CITY OF SAN Francisco was blessed with lovely weather.

My nephew Joey and I spent almost a week there, visiting, among other special places, St. Mary's Church near Chinatown.

It is the oldest downtown Catholic church and, conscious of our big numbers of the faithful, Fr. Ed is now struggling to keep ethnic bonanza of Sab of Bands.

There must be a way to sustain this historic church that survived the great earthquake of 1906 and has since served as a corner of unity and strength for its parishioners.

We went to St. Mary's to thank God for His blessings and to pray for the souls of our parents and brothers.

San Francisco will always have a special place in our hearts. Riding the cable cars and walking at Union Square reminded us of our parents, who first took us there in 1970.

The music of the city was playing for us as we met with childhood friends. How difficult it is to say goodbye.

New York

From San Francisco, we flew to New York, the greatest city in the world.

We spent another week there and caught two plays on Broadway—"The Wicked" and "Mamma Mia," both excellent productions.

The Rockefeller Center and the top of the Empire State building are still wonderful places to visit, as are New York University at the heart of Greenwich Village, Soho and Bryant's Park near the Public Library.

We had an interesting time in New York because we experienced four seasons in a week.

The issue of climate change was in every broadcaster, magazine and tabloid. The G-8 was then meeting in Germany and the United States was experiencing freak storms with hail, snow and rain—and drought at the same time.

The effects of Hurricanes "Katrina" and "Rita" were still fresh on our minds as we walked through that grand green space called Central Park, 5th Avenue, 42nd Street and Times Square.

It's truly a city that never sleeps, with people and cars thronging the streets at night breaks into a non-day.

Boston

And onward to Boston. The oldest city in the United States will always be my second home, next to Manila and Iloilo.

I studied and lived there in 1959-'63, and I was back to attend the 25th reunion of our Class of 1982. It was known as Archer 5. Little then, but today it's called the BSAFA International Business School.

We stayed in Cambridge, where I lived during that time. It's a quaint city across the Charles River where Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are located.

We walked the freedom trail from Cambridge to Boston and spent time revisiting the past.

It was like I never left. Classmates from Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Colombia, Philippines and United States flew in to attend the reunion and address the now heavily and proudest of the Class of 2007.

It was a good year, 1982. It was our class that first put up an environmental management course as an elective subject...the first of its kind in any business school.

What a challenging step it was, especially during a time when the environment was just a word first to be taken seriously.

Today, with unmistakable signs of global warming and climate change manifesting everywhere on the planet, the environment is part of every business school's curriculum.

I was invited to address the graduating class, and I felt honored to speak about our 25 years since graduation and how the environment and economics interwind parallel lines.

But as we spoke, the waters of Lake Superior we saw were receding by more than 20 feet. The Great Lakes were running dry!

Saying goodbye to Boston was harder than the rest. How does one bid farewell to a city one has lived in and continues to love?

Addressing the problem

Back in New York, we arrived at the JFK Airport to see the traffic of airplanes on the

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PUPPET dance at the opening of the 28th Korea World Travel Fair

Full blast in Korea

Text and photos by Constantino C. Tejero

TOURISM Secretary Joseph Durano (fourth from right) with his counterparts from other countries at the Korea tape-cutting ceremony

WE FIRST NOticed children with suitcases, some of them even toddlers, frolicking on the airport lobby three or four years ago. Then there were teenagers in groups chattering in malls. And soon there were hordes of them in the streets.

We were wondering where they came from, and why, as they looked not quite Chinese, certainly not Japanese. Then we considered it was what we belatedly tagged the "Korean invasion." (And we're not talking of those extensive Korean movies and television series, either.)

The Department of Tourism (DOT) has described it as a "fast-growing captive market, now economically the Philippines' biggest source of foreign tourists."

With last year's record arrivals of nearly 600,000 from Korea, why, that number could form a little Korean city right in Metro Manila.

And so the DOT is in full-blast operation in Korea with a campaign called "7,107 Philippines —More Than You Can Imagine." (The number, of course, refers to our islands.)

This, says Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano, is "specifically targeted at our four primary market segments in the province, to—holiday-makers, students, honeymooners and special interest groups—thus ensuring Korean arrivals in the Philippines all year round."

The "7,107" marketing program was launched at the 28th Korea World Travel Fair (Seoul) on June 7-10 in Seoul, timed for the month starting the summer holidays in Korea. This time it focused on Cheong Gye in the Kadayonan, the thanksgiving festival of fruits, foods and flowers on the second week of August.

The Philippine delegation comprised 30 representatives from hotels and resorts, tour operators and airlines; four media persons from the top two Philippine newspapers and the giant TV network ABS-CBN; the government counterpart of eight, including Durano and Bataan Rep. Antonino Roman; and 18 entertainers, including children.

Cultural performances

We were well attended in the moment we arrived at Incheon International Airport, about an hour's drive from central Seoul, where we were billeted at Lotte World Hotel (semi).

On hand were DOT Team Korea's supervising market specialists Doris Aparejado and Jansen Ty. Wherever we went, we were closely trailed by Hun Park, a Korean student at University of the Philippines Diliman who volunteered with the DOT office in Seoul to act as our guide during the duration of our stay.

The following morning, we came early for the Korea opening ceremony at the Convention and Exhibition Center (Coex) (center) as Korea's main cultural and events venue. We were recently, in fact, that the convention place hosted virtually undoubtedly.

While waiting for the tape-cutting ceremony, the guests were entertained by rehearsed performances at the entrance near the escalators. They were visibly shaken by an acrobatic Chinese dance involving umbrellas and a Mindanao-style bamboo dance involving, well, bamboo.

At noon in the exhibition opened, more cultural performances unfolded onstage and in booths. We were particularly riveted by the contingent from Cagayan, more of their young and lyrics, dance steps, and even costumes and faces looked and sounded somewhat familiar—we thought they were perhaps an extended somewhere in the Pacific.

Strategically located on the front row and near the entrance, the Philippine booth was the third biggest in floor area, after China's and Korea's. It looked lively and cozy, filled with colors. The décor had a distinctly Mindanao motif, we even espied the sacred weave of the T'boli being used as draping.

Mexican Ramon Rivera, head of team Korea and our tourism attaché in Seoul, explained that the Philippine booth had a fiesta theme but since the destination focus was Southern Philippines, and in view of direct flights from Incheon to Davao.

Fellowship dinner

In one hall of Coex was held a welcome luncheon to which Seoul Mayor Oh Se Hoon was in attendance. Korean performers showed guests their surrounding way with drums.

Durano was called on stage to make a remark, and he introduced the international delegates to our peculiar greeting "Mabuhay!"

Most of our table couldn't have enough of the raspberry wine in the numerous toasts, and then found the cream of cauliflower soup with clam and beef tenderloin deeply satisfying.

In the evening, Durano hosted a fellowship dinner for tour wholesalers and the media in the Penny Room of Westin Chosun Hotel. Also attending were Senator, Philippine Ambassador to Korea Sarah Cammeron, and Korean Tourism Association chair Jeong Hak Chae.

Durano presented "Beyond the Usual," a five-minute video highlighting "the uniqueness of Philippine destinations, festivals and parties, shopping and bargains, lifestyle and entertainment, health and wellness, history and traditions, and nature, culture and adventure, and many other activities that are not country specific."

Someone at our table couldn't restrain herself from muttering over the salad of smoked duck breast with caramelized pear, while drowning an aching bland the refusal of celery was with chives. Another loudly ignored the mixed garden greens in favorite French dressing, as he had had more than enough of leaves from days of eating bulgogi.

Anniversary celebration

The following evening, Coex Center hosted a reception for the 109th anniversary of Philippine independence, celebrated four days in advance in the Regency Ballroom of Grand Hyatt Seoul. Guest of honor was Minister Hyung-Jae Park of the Ministry of Government and Home Affairs.

After the entrance of colors and the ceremonial runs, the Asean diplomatic corps and guests cordially recognized, sang and chattered, sang and posed for photos, one or two even tinkled the piano.

The chicken-pork adobo was the first to be wiped out, while the fancy cakes stood virtually untouched. The Philippine flag was everywhere in the dress filling up the hall, even the flowers were arranged in trades.

On our last night in Seoul, Durano hosted an ethnic-food dinner at Gangjeon Garden, some 14 minutes' walk from Lotte. Platters after platters of beef ribs and tenderloin came for grilling on our long table garnished with assorted vegetables both fresh and pickled.

We are slowly amid an artificial waterfall, swimming fishes, intimate lighting, and music from a chamber orchestra of young women garbed in blue traditional attire. Not wanting to be outdone by our host, we ate everything on our plate, including the chili paste and the dried seaweeds.

The famous Seol Hanoia was glaring at us across the table, as we wouldn't do anything but quickly finish his daily serving of green and leafy vegetables.

TRICOLOR among the flowers

PHILIPPINE booth with distinctly Mindanao motif

MY NEPHEW Joey Chaparas in San Francisco

CAMBRIDGE with Boston skyline

3 cities

From page B1

system. It took us an hour to take off.

With air traffic and other operations, the problem is quite clear. You can see really achieve the problem of global warming and climate change? Urban sprawl continues. How long before the planet dies?

The June 2007 issue of the National Geographic shows us vivid color the effects of global warming: "The Big Thaw"—ice on the east and seas on the rise.

From Greenland to the Antarctica, the world is being its ice faster than anyone thought possible. The threats posed by the melting sea ice of the Arctic and the retreating glaciers all over the world is real.

The current battle cry is to save the environment, yet no one seems to be addressing the problem. Are we too late to do anything? I say: No, as long as we walk our talk and start a sea change right now.

The bottom line is this: Healthy ecology means good business.

What good are San Francisco, Boston and New York when the planet is at end?

The author is the president of the Ecological Society of the Philippines.

Travel Briefs

RP joins HK Fashion Week

The Department of Trade and Industry brings the country's top fashion designers to the prestigious gem jewelers to Hong Kong Fashion Week 2007, July 10-13, at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center. Eleven local design companies will showcase the Philippines' "trend to customize jewelry: our long-lasting and high-fashion jewelry and fashion jewelry, accessories and leather goods. Trade Undersecretary Ted Gonzalez-Reyes, executive director of the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, said Filipinos could have a lot due top the mark as Hong Kong sees the center for fashion and exhibition designers Asia.

Travel Mart Sept. 7-9

The 19th Philippine Travel Mart will be held on Sept. 7 to 9 at the Megatrade Hall 2 SM Megamall. This year's theme is "Everything's there for You" Organized by the Philippine Tour Operators Association (Philtoa), this marks the 19th consecutive year of tour operators. The event will showcase the country's diverse attractions. Visit www.philtoa.ph.

Sweet deals

Singapore Airlines offers special discounted round-trip airfares with fare as P7,858. Singapore, $350-9401 is popular destinations like Kuala Lumpur to Penang, Bangkok to Brunei, Jakarta to Saigon, Sydney to Perth. Promo are exclusive of taxes and surcharges. Visit singaporeair.com.

Expert advice

Travel Expertise, offered under the Travel Planner page of the Experience Philippines website gives readers free travel information and insights on travel destinations in the country. It is a unique interactive service that has received 1-888-PHILIPPINES applicable to Canada and the United States, including Hawaii. The department has encouraging points to the 10 tourist list. "Call of the Sea," an online talk that ends Dec. 31, will give a unique knowledge about Philippine.

Management agreement

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts will operate the new Traders Hotel on Xiao Yun Road, Upper East Beijing. A management agreement was recently signed by Shangri-La and the Beijing-based Supermarket Co. Ltd. The Traders Hotel, opening early August 2008 in time for the Beijing Olympic Games, will be the group's second Traders Hotel in the city. Designed by Barcelona-based Ricardo Bofill, the hotel will feature 419 rooms with city views.

Giving becomes even more rewarding

WHILE REWARDS ARE A MAJOR draw for credit-card users, cardholders are also regularly sharing their rewards with those in need, according to Grace D. Lingap, card marketing head of American Express Bank.

This, American Express has institutionalized the practice of giving by linking a number of nonprofit organizations and charities as beneficiaries of its loyalty program for card members.

Lingap said they were seeing more card members redeem rewards benefiting charity organizations like Children's Hour or Philippine National Red Cross.

American Express Blue Platinum Credit Card Members earn one Membership Rewards (MR) point for every P45 charged to their card. The rewards program also allows members to donate to nonprofit organizations like the Philippine Eagle Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, the De la Salle University System Foundation and Ateneo Incentive Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

Every 4,000 MR points is equivalent to P1,000 in cash donation made in the card member's organization of choice.

The latest issue of Incentivo, the American Express Membership Rewards Program catalogue, now includes in the section on Incentivo rewards and charities nonprofit organizations involved in housing, disaster relief, children, education and wildlife.

The 2007 catalogue also gives a peek into what the affluent consider as "fun" items, places and experiences. Not redeemable, it's listed as Selfie!; for gift vouchers, brands under Siesta Specials! like Boost, Charcol, Bodhiveg and many more; others, the Italian selection Desserts Academia by Bottega, which comes with its own wine bag cooler gadgets, Nintendo's latest interactive game console Wii, and experiential, the Farmers & Oriental Express luxury train trip.

Card members also have access to over 90 airlines through six frequent flyer programs and trips to hundreds of resorts and hotels worldwide. They earn one air mile for every P45 charged to their card to almost all frequent flyer partners, one of the lowest conversion rates.

Lingap said American Express chose the rewards they offered by studying the spending habits of card members.

Some rewards like spa experiences and restaurants at certain salons may have been hot last season but not anymore this year. Lingap said American Express recognized that people change, tastes change, it stayed ahead of its clients by anticipating those changes, she said.

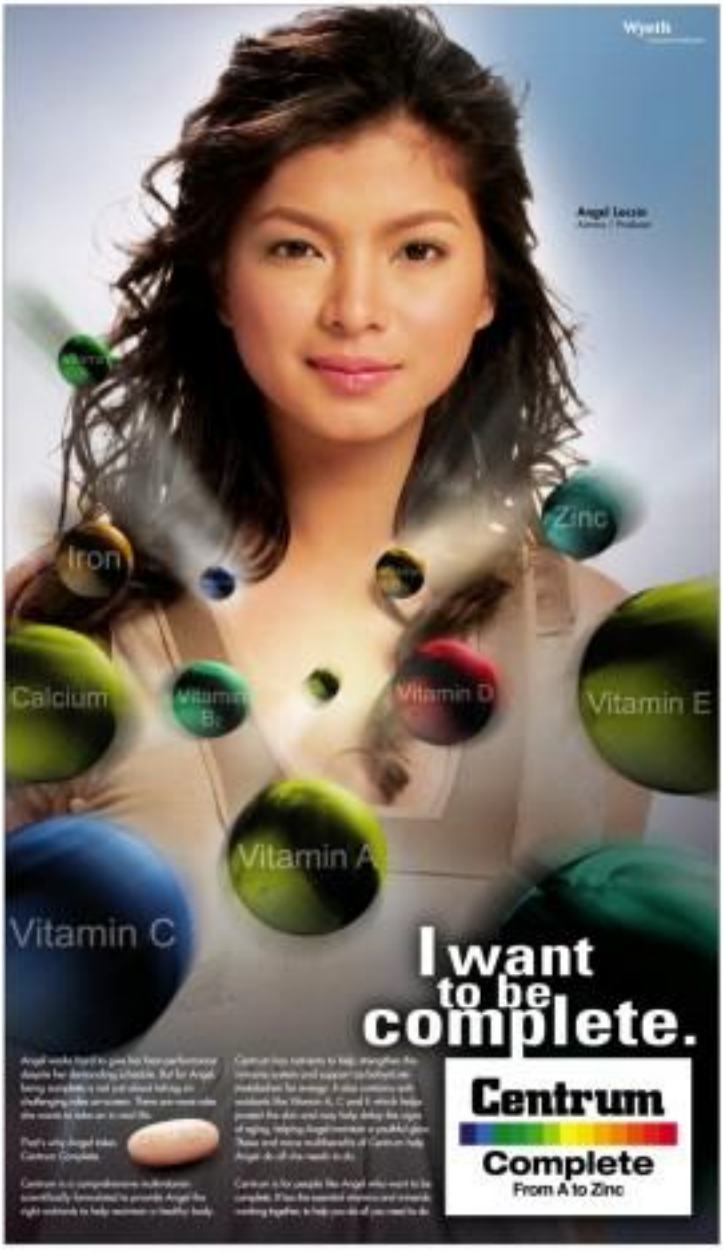
A complete Angel

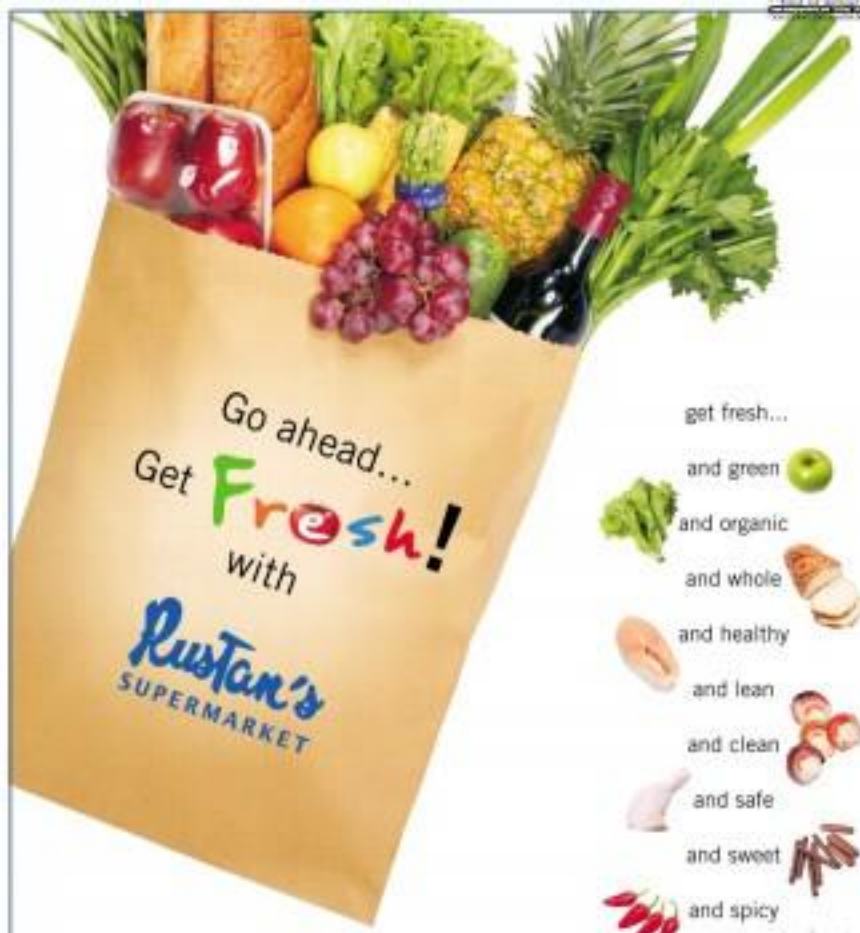
Like the many characters she plays, Angel is a strong and capable woman. Only eight years in the business, she has evolved into one of the country's biggest stars. She is also now a movie producer. Yet inspite of her accomplishments, she says it's still not enough. "There are so many things I still want to do," quips Angel. And one of them is to win an acting award. She wants to be more than just a celebrity with a famous name and a pretty face. Rather, she would like to be remembered as an artist – one of the best in the art of acting. She also wants to be a hero. But unlike the fantasy characters she plays, she wants to be a true-to-life hero, a detective. When given the chance, she wants to study criminology and proactively fight crime while championing the cause of abused women.

Hailing from a family of swimmers, Angel hopes to teach swimming someday. She especially wants to teach kids as they have a soft spot in her heart. In fact, she often goes to an orphanage and helps out any way she can.

Aside from that, she also helps at a foundation for the blind. She personally knows how tough life is for the blind, not many people know that she takes care of her blind father. "Gusto ko matakita na uli ang dad ko, we're waiting for technology that will let him see again," says Angel.

Indeed, Angel is perfect as the new face of Centrum, because she embodies everything that the brand stands for. She has the drive to be complete, the urge to do more than what she's doing now. And that is what Centrum is all about, enabling people like Angel do what they need to do so they can be complete.





get fresh...

and green

and organic

and whole

and healthy

and lean

and clean

and safe

and sweet

and spicy

and tangy

and creamy

and gourmet

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Founder of school for orphans takes Pinay bride

WILLIAM Baldwin III and Marivel Burro

AMERICAN PHILANTHROPIST William D. "Bill" Baldwin III, who set up the country's first international boarding school for orphans in Cainta, Rizal province, wed beautiful Marivel Burro in an elegant ceremony in La Verdiana northeast City.

Baldwin, founder of Children's Chance for Tomorrow (CCFT), and his future bride, a Lipeña, tied the knot at the Cainta Catholic Church.

The couple brought the vows to Manila and South America. Paul Gabriel led the guests of the Nuno bride while Freedom de Asis took care of the entourage. Also involved in the wedding were planners Alan Tiotuico, videographer Jason Magbanua, and photographer Thor Lazo. Rain and mishaps were done by La Hagas.

Music during the wedding ceremony was provided by Bernie Miranda led by Ed and Tina Mercado.

Guitarist Leo Jacalbe while lighting during the wedding and the reception was provided by Bong Lee. A 15-minute fireworks display entertained the guests before dinner was served inside the La Verdiana hotel.

Master of ceremonies was RJ Ledesma, columnist and magazine editor.

The Mrs Miranda gave a surprise performance of Strawberry and peppermint.

Baldwin, who previously worked as a contractor in conflict areas, founded CCFT in 2000. The CCFT-Gen International school is the first international school in Palawan certified by the Department of Education.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding and your daytime phone along with a photo of the couple and a detail of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, PO Box 3307 Makati City, Intramuros Post Office 1261 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and are subject to the editor's discretion.

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YOUNG, beautiful set. Ramon Tuason, Alonzo Santos, Lois Lopez and Virgie Escalant

ABS-CBN Publishing GM Thelma Sioson Sue Juan (second from left) with Andrew Gan, Raul Manzano and JJ Corunjeng

PRETTY young girls, Bernice Duenas and Thea Jacinto

Happy marriage between fashion and technology

MUCH-LOVED designer Auggie Cordero

ABS-CBN Publishing royal couple Jeanne and Erwin Lopez

PHILIPPINE Star president Miguel Belmonte and lovely wife Mikki

LUCKY man of the Samsung evening Philip Cruz and son Lyo

TALENTED Pinoy couple Ricky Toledo and Chino Alpuerto

EMPHASIS Salon GM Margo and Manchet Olivas

THE HAPPY MARIAGE between fashion and Samsung mobile phones seems a perfect combination of luxury, science and techno style. Indeed, Samsung's Ultra 2 Edition phones show off a quick of style, sleekness and sophisticatedness that is emblematic of the fashion industry.

In an elegantly orchestrated dinner at the Peninsula Manila's Magnolia Ballroom, the cohort de la crème of Samsung's Ultra line of phones were recently unveiled to rollicking assembly of Manila's A-listers.

I missed the requisite cocktails as I was, once again, running hideously late. Luckily the main dinner party was just getting into full swing with clashing hues Isha Manansala bulldog up the environment.

The sumptuous dinner had entertainment provided by three boys with built-in vocal instruments; the Modelito, and a glitz ensembling as models paraded over the new phones. The jaw-dropping surprise of the night, though, was when each of the special guests was presented his or her own unit—the latest Samsung SGH-U600—a sexy, sippy, classy, super slider phone for the tech-savvy individual.

Samsung has, indeed, been very aggressive with its promotion of new designs and features. My 9-year-old daughter Amelia has on her wish list the Samsung Ultra Music U608 with its flipping option of a dual mp3 music player and mobile phone.

Girls beyond doing cocktail-party-ne-ette should, on many levels are hoping to get this new gadget, is it too early for Christmas yet?

Long overdue

Samsung Electronics has become an avenue to promote fashion and design, transcending any perceived limits as an electronics brand. Its individual sense of style, combined with design and sophistication, has greatly elevated the brand. Thus, it was fitting that Samsung sponsored the long-overdue fashion show of classy and femininely classic designer Auggie Cordero.

Auggie has not had a show in more than 10 years, until ABS-CBN Publishing GM Thelma Sioson-San Juan, a lifelong friend, had the brilliant idea for him to stage one.

Auggie's clothes have always been known for their intricate attention to detail and consummate cut, and these qualities were in brilliant display during the runway-cum-trunk show at the Manila Peninsula Ballroom last week.

The evening of superb Filipino design and artistry was also a very emotional one, as Auggie's faithful clients and friends showered him with bouquets of flowers as curtain call. It did not help that the music playing was quite dramatic, too. I personally have never thought to indulge, but I was on touched by his intimacy and closeness with his clients.

Before the show started, the trappings of ABS-CBN all came onstage in show their support for the designer and Samsung. This writer supposedly the first to arrive for print and TV media to jointly enter a fashion event, with Metro Magazine and the Lifestyle Network working together to cover all angles.

Being an accessory junkie/princess, I should've got to Auggie a bit more. Perhaps then I could borrow from his wonderful collection of feathery headpieces.

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

The Samsung-backed Auggie Cordero gala was a smash hit! Being an accessory junkie, perhaps I could borrow from Auggie's wonderful collection of feathery headpieces

FAMILY FRIENDS. Nelly Delgado, Sisters of Mary mom and Nelsons chair Maria Prieto

ENGAGED couple Nonnie Pastor and RJ Ledesma

SAMSUNG mobile group head Fe Vicilla flanked by handsome couple Paco Sandejas and Christine Jacob-Sandejas

EMBASSY guests Patrick and Ingrid Gin, Yvette Kanai and Marissa Crisologo

ARCHITECT Chino Antonio, Dawn Zulueta and Mike Toledo

GLOBE Asiatique reuners Divine Lee and Samsung VP Charles Choi

MALUMBUBA girls Tessa Dragon, Tina Tinio, Mindy Tantoco and Kong Zubiaga

Love overdue

Auggie's style seemed to be a confluence of local fashion events because from the Cordero Show, most of the guests headed to Unique, Embassy Chalet the Net, for the second Preview Magazine Boracay launch.

The look there was Inter-Asian, which could only be described as confusing. I felt like a dress-cracker, unable to decide with the dress code since my evening gown by former Bench designers Hajo Laurel/Cesar Galvez came out lopsided.

Seeing so Embassy Antipinoy my sense that there is truly a new generation. The house looks all so lively when one sees them all the very young lads, many of whom are children of my friends, and all wearing micro-minis and ripping Mariteis. Thank goodness the DJ music was awesome that night, with retro songs spun in techno arrangements.

It was wonderful to bump into Embassy owner and true friend Tess Yap. After all the separation angst between boyfriend Jasper and him, he has moved on to another more animated phase of his life... the TV world, where he can shine even brighter.

I seem to be surrounded by a post-forty-one group, but like the others, I assume Tim will be even more successful with his new profession, although I will surely miss his features in Super.

Finest seafarers

Our country is filled with great designers, party extravaganzas and business tycoons who all indulge in social responsible activities. One such corporate head is International Diversified Group CEO Bobbie Delgado, who recently inaugurated the RYK/TDG maritime academy in Cuadrilateral.

Located at Bataclan-de-Roman Inside Carmelowest, the academy will train our countrymen to become the finest maritime seafarers and future officers. The Philippines has the largest number of seamen in the world and they all contribute to our sense of Filipino pride. What other nationality comes to mind when you say "service with a smile?"

The facility was unveiled by President Macapagal-Arroyo, who took the time to tour the campus that impressively includes an Olympic-size pool, a building with art and ship simulators and boarding houses.

As part of TDG's corporate social responsibility program, 20 students from the Sisters of Mary Boystown are company-sponsored at the academy.

In his speech, JBD, as he is known, said the financial payback of the academy will take 10 years, but the business side is not the priority of the academy, instead, the focus is truly to help future seafarers-to-be in their profession.

"One clue is a happy marriage too—of social commitment and education!

E-mail the author at inq@inq.net.ph@yahoo.com.ph.

TDG FAMILY Helen Delgado, Japan Airlines GM Toshiro Morita, architect Philip Casas, Doris Ho and architect Bong Recio

METRO Magazine editor in chief Mel Casonas, Bobbie Ocampo and Lulu Tan-Gan

NIA Francisco-Prieto, Pauline Suarez-Juan and Berbi Chan

NYK-TDG BLESSING. Mayor Joaquin Chipeco, Pat Sio Tomas, Antonio Brion, Rep. Justine Chipeco, President Macapagal-Arroyo, NYK president Koji Hiyahara, TDG president Bobbie Delgado, chair Carlito Pons and Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki

NYK-TDG Maritime Academy building

LUCKY Samsung phone winners Ben Chan, Miguel Patron, Myla Tordesa and Susan Jawo

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Budding romance threatened by another suitor

DEAR EMILY,

I am working abroad and, like everyone else, it is really hard to be alone especially when you are surrounded by a bunch of both lovable and ugly-hearted men.

My boss and I are getting to know each other very well. It shouldn't be a problem since we are both single and responsible. But another guy likes me so much. Embarrassingly we are in the same department.

He has already created a lot of problems for me like harassing and threatening me. My problem is I don't know whether I should pursue this good friendship relationship with my boss. I fear that this other guy will create havoc in our lives... I am afraid for both of us.

Also, I am afraid to lose my boss and, if things get better, it will be a blessing. But I am afraid for both of us. What shall I do?

HELLO!!!

There is already so much havoc, intrigue and terrorism everywhere around us and it saturates me so much so that I even encounter an losing hold hostage, as in your case now!

Hey girl, do what you want to do if you are not breaking any rules anyway. I don't care if this guy is a native of this country you are working in. You are not a slave, you are not illegal and, if you do not owe him anything – obey the dictates of your heart.

No matter how much you fear him, do not give in to his demands if you do not care for him at all. Be strong and steadfast in what you believe in.

You should only be afraid if you are doing something stupid and illegal – against their country or religion.

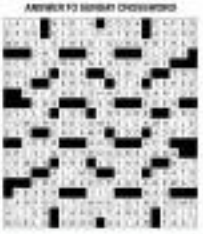
If this creep continues to harass you, report him to the government that handles cases like this, as well as to the Philippine Embassy.

Just remember that foreigners have rights, too, in the country they are working in. Immigration officials don't like their jobs to be made difficult while you are in the process, tell this job to go jump and shake hands with the devil.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph. Subject: *Ugliness*, or send your letter to Emily Marcelo, Lifestyle Section, Inquirer, 40 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Listen to Mr. Marcelo as host the program "Kalikasan Tigbalita," 7:35 to 8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBB 104.3 FM.

'I fear that the other guy will create havoc in our lives... I am afraid for both of us'

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



STOP BEING A DANDRUFF VICTIM: Your Clear Solution

Does the world need another anti-dandruff shampoo?

The answer seems to be yes, as studies show that 44% of Filipinos suffer from this embarrassing and annoying scalp condition. Fortunately, there's a new player in the game that has been clinically proven to offer unbeaten dandruff protection.

Clear is the all-new dandruff solution that easily and effectively eliminates flakes with every wash. It features a unisex range with four shampoo and two conditioner variants as well as a men's range with three shampoo options designed to address specific hair and scalp needs. Clear not only eliminates the problem but prevents dandruff from coming back thanks to a patented and unique active ingredient, Zinc Vitanol.

For anyone who has had to avoid the color black, endless harsh scalp treatments and snide remarks that dandruff triggers, Clear anti-dandruff shampoo was created for you. The long-lasting, regular-use shampoo keeps dandruff at bay while maintaining your healthy and beautiful tresses, by cooling, refreshing and nourishing your scalp, relieving dryness, preventing hair breakage and itchiness.

Its extensive range offers extra nourishment for your hair and scalp, giving you a complete dandruff solution, which makes it the only shampoo to be endorsed by the International Academy of Cosmetic Dermatology.

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Barcong

Alice S. Laya Memorial Golf Tournament

IN 1990, WHEN TYPHOON ompong ravaged Mankayan, Alice Sandoval Laya urged her friends from Manilatopar to put up Mankayan Foreing for Mankayanon to uplift the lives of people through livelihood projects.

Training programs were undertaken in different communities in demonstration farms in Mankayan taught farmers scientific methods; organic-bug sprays, were encouraged farmers to seek better prices for their products; and women from making organic-based their income.

Then Alice died in the tragic earthquake that hit Luzon in 1990. She was in Baguio attending a seminar of the United States Agency for International Development at the Hotel Nevada to get funding for the livelihood projects in Mankayan.

Patricia Nepomuceno-Jarimo said Alice always wanted to see it bloom. During the earthquake, the roof collapsed. She did not get the chance to run out. Her husband, former Minister Jaime Laya, family and friends were devastated.

The Mankayanon Foundation decided to continue what she started and help her fortunate Mankayanons. It was what Alice would have called "touching us with the heart."

The board has since included more projects. On its 10th year, the board is building the Alice S. Laya Memorial Gold Tournament on July 20, at 11 a.m., at Sleek Wack Golf and Country Club.

For inquiries, text Tita Nel Jarimo at 0917-5092494; Benny Hermoso at 0917-5372514 or call 6327414; lawyer Greg Bolayo at 8886-2720505, or call 9207446; Eddie Abbo at 0917-7933334; and the MFI office at 4535652.

New projects

Other activities being undertaken by Mankayanon are a new dress farm in barrio Bantod in Bontoc; pre-school classes in several barrios of Bontoc; medicines for Kiangan-infested communities and, with the Department of Health, construction of latrines in some barrios.

Officers

Mankayanon's executive officers are Ramon L. Hermoso, chair; Patricia S. Jacinto, vice chair; Greg M. Bolayo, vice chair, external affairs; Cynthia Nepomuceno, treasurer; Loreto S. Tolero, corporate secretary; Delia L. Hermoso, legal counsel; and Victor H. Rodriguez, chair emeritus. Members are Eduardo L. Abao, Arsenio Bolayo, Angel L. Bishop, Augusto D. Hidalgo, Sylvia Eugene and Francisco P. Del Haze.

Shroud of Turin

A centuries-old linen cloth bearing the image of a crucified man, the Shroud of Turin, has been venered for hundreds of years as the burial shroud of Jesus of Nazareth.

Locked away in a cathedral in Turin, Italy, the Shroud is only displayed three or four times a century, drawing pilgrims from all over the world.

Although the most official exposition of the Shroud is in 2025, Filipinos do not have to wait for a couple more decades or travel thousands of miles to see it. See the first time in the Philippines and in Asia, Shroud Exhibition International Inc. will present the Philippine Exhibition of The Mysteries of the Shroud of Turin.

It opens July 20 at SM City Pampanga then be taken to SM Mall of Asia, from 4 Dec. 9, SM Aura, Jan. 18-Feb. 3, 2008, and SM City Cebu, April 4-27, 2008.

Hangul

The dance-based Hangul will have its first a capella concert at 6 p.m. today at the Ayalahdo PCI Bank Auditorium, 119 Dela Costa St., corner Makati Ave. Another performance is set July 15, 6 p.m.

Tickets are available at the gate at P150 each. The group can also sing at weddings. Visit www.hangul.com for more info and to order their albums.

Hangul is a group of young professionals and students bound by friendship and a passion for helping others know God through liturgical and inspirational music. They belong to the Jesus Music Ministry. Nick Rabor Tirol is one of the composers.

Healing Mass

Fr. Zeshi D. Manalac from the Prelature of Ilocanos of the Archdiocesan Shrine of Manila Archbishop de Goia Ermito Quevedo will officiate at a healing Mass July 9, 6 p.m.

For information, call the shrine office at 5232750 or text 0921-7908361.

Goodbye, Julia

Our dear friend Julina Nepal passed away from 14 from kidney failure and complications. Her brother Grace and his cousin Cora Jarimo.

THE late Alice Sandoval Laya, one of the founders of Mankayanon Foundation, Inc., was killed in the July 16, 1990 earthquake in Baguio City.

Julina was very good looking and bright. When I learned he was suffering from kidney failure and had to undergo dialysis three times a week, I felt bad for him.

According to his close friends, Julina went peacefully and did not suffer long. May his soul rest in peace.

Julina is survived by his son Daniel and his family who lives in Spain.

Feast day

The feast of Our Lady from Medina will be on July 13. There will be a Mass at 11 noon at the Hurtado Plaza Chapel. Our Lady under this title is a powerful intercessor. Ask her for help on her feast day and the answered prayers is like her gift to you.

Book

The book on Bishop Alfredo Serrosa sermon by Fr. Ericson Jocon will be given to all bishops during the plenary session of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines at the Pius XII Catholic Center today, July 8.

Videoke for OPM fans

SELLING FOR MONEY SHOULD be the main consideration in choosing, which videoke system to buy.

That is what JiDer Best answer Portable Box Videoke is all about. Bundesized four (P7 inch, Designed Filipino Music players. No other videoke system comes close.

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If you want to relive the good of days of the 70s, pinoy from bossa Manila sound and Pinoy folk and rock music of the likes of Heaven, Hagibis, Mike Mariscal, Semiguitis, Freddie Aguilar, Asin, and Pilipinas are also on the play list.

Also included in the superstore are 1,200 of the latest in the greatest English songs from artists like Pussycat Dolls, Puff Daddy, Beyonce, Panic Bliss, Black Eyed Peas, Sugababes, Kelly Clarkson, Timbaland, Madonna 20, Jadine Hampton.

The system optimizes MP3 technology for videoke system with "Hard-sound." The features let you sing with orchestra accompaniment, dying microphones, sound meter, and back-up singers.

JiDer Hardsound is manufactured by TJ Media Co. Ltd of Korea and exclusively distributed by Brailliantel Corporation at tel. 5366194 or 3869432, such are www.ticel.com.ph/jider.com).

JiDER Hardsound Portable Box Videoke

SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2007 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER F1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Gabella

How self-worth affects your child

A child who has a healthy sense of self will not only love himself or herself but will be able to love in an even higher way through service to other people

MARCO BEGAN THE SCHOOL YEAR AS A smart, inquisitive and happy 7-year-old boy eager to learn new things and acquire new experiences. The first quarter was uneventful and Marco brought home excellent grades.

Toward the middle of the school year, however, his parents began to notice a marked change in Marco's behavior. In the mornings, it became very difficult to wake him up, and he was sullen or belligerent most of the time. Toward the middle of the year, his grades had dipped tremendously that he almost failed one subject.

Alarmed at what was taking place, his parents took him to a child psychologist, who found that Marco was being traumatized by his Math teacher. She would regularly embarrass him in class and berate calling and would glare at him when he could not get the right answer.

In a matter of months, Marco's self-worth had seemingly jumped out of the window, eliciting every aspect of his emotional and academic life.

Self-worth or self-esteem has been defined in many ways, but most of the definitions address aspects of how we view and value ourselves.

"Feeling good about yourself" or "actualizing one's inner attributes" or "being validated by others" are some of the common definitions of a healthy self-esteem. By whatever manner it is defined, countless studies have shown that self-esteem or self-worth is a basic and important component of who we are as individuals, and the level of that self-worth certainly affects who we are collectively as a society and as a nation.

Much of society's ills—crime, corruption, addiction, ostentatious displays of wealth, excessive hubris—has been attributed to low self-esteem.

William Damon—senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, director of the Stanford Center on Adolescence, and a professor of education at Stanford University—in the author of "Greater Expectations: Overcoming the Culture of Indulgence in Our Homes and Schools" (1995).

He says that self-esteem should not be viewed as an end in itself. Self-esteem is particularly good thing for people to have, but it should be the result of good behavior. In other words, you should feel good about yourself because you've done something right.

Children shouldn't go around saying "I'm terrific" no matter how they're behaving. He says to promote self-esteem that comes from achievement and from service to others. But when the child has done something wrong, the child should feel bad about that.

That is not to say that the child should go around saying "I'm a bad person," but the child should say, "I did a bad thing, and I can learn to do better."

Greatest gift

Well-loved psychologist Dr. Nancy Carandang echoes this in her latest book, "Self-Worth and the Filipino Child." Carandang, who has worked with countless children and families over a span of over three decades, pioneered group play therapy for children and family therapy in the country. She says that the greatest gift we can give our children is a healthy and positive self-concept.

"The child's self-concept and self-worth do not develop because of his/her abilities or the lack of them. Rather, they depend a lot on the messages about himself/herself that the child absorbs from the significant people in his/her life, especially those that have an impact during his/her growing-up years, namely parents, family members and teachers."

Carandang adds that it is important for parents and teachers to look inward and ask themselves the following questions:

Am I generally facilitating or hindering a person's self-esteem? When is the last thing I notice in a person or in a situation? Do I jump to conclusion and correct what is wrong, or do I notice the positive aspects first? Do I express my observations openly?

Carandang further says that a child has a very strong admiration, a desire to pick up whatever attitude has a solid sense of self-worth or sees "They don't learn' self-worth in the traditional sense. They absorb it in a more unobtrusive and deeper way," she explains.

A child who has a healthy sense of self-worth will not only love himself or herself but will be able to love in an even higher way through service to other people. Children may thus treat someone for the well-being of others rather than for the mentally distorted desires of the self. This love is at the core of healthy self-esteem.

Things to remember

What can parents and teachers do to help nurture a healthy sense of self-worth in every child? Carandang's book gives several tips.

Spot the child's area of competence, and start to increase his self-worth through that area. For example, if you notice that your child loves to draw or write, or seems to excel in a particular sport, encourage him and enroll him in classes that will further hone his skills.

Don't label a child. As every conscious se-

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Winning the homework battle

By Queenie M. Lee-Chua

HOMEWORK DOES NOT RANK high on pleasure lists, nor is it a necessary task. It reinforces topics discussed in class, leading to better understanding. Term papers, science experiments, creative projects give students a chance to hone their knowledge in a creative way, first of all, by doing homework regularly, students learn to develop good study habits.

"Our top daughter Jane and I fight over assignments," my friend recalls. "I threaten, I cajole, I bribe. In Jane's old school, homework was rarely given, but since transferring to this one, she has homework every day. She doesn't want to do them."

Doing homework well is not a question of willpower, but of harnessing good strategies so that it becomes a habit that eventually becomes second nature.

Doing assignments is not a question of willpower, but of harnessing good strategies so that it becomes a habit

Develop a set routine

Not all children, especially teens, have a set time for study. They may do homework after dinner, in between TV shows, or perhaps only hours before exams when they pull an ineffective all-nighter. In our survey, we have found that the best students put homework before pleasure. They tackle homework first when they reach home, and only turn to other pursuits when they have finished.

Many top students in public schools are exempted from classes when their have lots of assignments. Their parents sacrifice by doing those household tasks instead.

"The main responsibility of my children right now," says a father whose kids are doing well in a public school in Bulacan, "is to study hard. They can help us in our work afterwards."

Aside from a set time for study, children need a designated place for the activity—if possible, their own desk. A desk signifies that studying is serious business. Un educators Harold Stevenson and James Stigler attribute the generally superior academic performance of Asian over Western children to international studies papers by on this fact: "By providing space and a personal desk, parents not only make it easier for their children to study, they also convey the message that they consider studying to be important. Children feel, in turn, that they must justify the parents' sacrifices by devoting themselves appropriately to their schoolwork. In one home in Taiwan, we found the father, a businessman, doing his office work on a tray couch in the middle of the living room. Even though he had no desk at home for himself, each of his two elementary school children had desks. If there is a desk in an American home, it is more likely to belong to a parent than to a child."

In crowded Filipino homes, the kitchen table can serve as school, and All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), current road horseback riding, hiking, and rappelling courses a long.

Country manager Chris Nelson led the opening ceremonies.

"The best thing about taking a risk is the reward that sometimes comes after it. You still took a risk today, to hop on a bus with students that you didn't know, to participate in an adventure that you didn't really understand. And the likely reward is that you'll have extra learning more about yourself, more about each other, and more about Philip Morris. So we're all probably looking for more career opportunities, looking for doors to open. You have the key today to open many doors—doors to yourself, doors to each other, doors to Philip Morris," he said.

Nelson then gave the participants a set of keys for their morning adventure: car relay racing. The group was divided into two teams, each with a pit stop crew, loads crew and paint crew, and drivers. They encountered mud-bonding obstacles and problem-solving tasks, all designed to mirror the Philip Morris brand values: having a passion for getting the most difficult things done with a sense of urgency, speed, uniqueness, decisiveness and risk-taking.

PARTICIPANTS compete in a change tires the fastest during the car relay adventure.

Minimize distractions

The study area should be well ventilated, with sufficient lighting. Avoid too light or too dim. Whether light is bright or dim depends on the level of alertness needed. Music is required for math, so more lights is preferred, but low light may help more than the child is influencing on how to do an essay. It should not be too dim that he strains his eyes or falls asleep.

The temperature should be neither too warm nor too cold, something that parents rarely think about. The science grades of Carlos, a third grader, were not so good. When I visited his home, I discovered that he often left his cold in the study room. His mom, who stayed at his room, was literally a warm-blooded body, and the air-conditioned den encouraged Carlos to use the little boy out in the cold, so to speak.

Minimize distractions during study time. It is best not to have a TV, phone or stereo in the room. In this very house, I assure that they are all turned off. A number of parents think background sound or ambiance quiet time for the household when but one is studying. But that period, every minute counts. If Nanay needs help—is engaged in quiet activities such as reading, knitting or mopping.

In families of top students in Manila public schools, the parents put the TV on mute while children study.

Some students claim that they study better with the stereo blasting, but studies show that the only benefit of loud music is to help kids unwind in does not promote learning. A class stressed out from school may chill out as he listens to his favorite CD, but he should probably not start doing physics at this time. After 15 or 20 minutes, he should take a sufficiently time-headed to begin the work, with the music off.

Tackle the hardest topics first

We tend to avoid things we dislike, and we do them at the last minute, if at all. Nina, a Grade Four student, does not like math. When she gets home, she reads the English text, memorizes Math drills and is, studies the map.

If she has time, she prides highly stares doing the math homework. She is already exhausted, so she commits mistakes. She wants to get math over with, so she does not spend more reading the lesson and barely understands half of what she sees. She flunks the quiz the next day and dislikes math even more, which makes her avoid spending time on the subject, and so on.

This vicious cycle contributes to anxiety and loathing, and finally to the thought that she is terrible in math.

What should Nina do? Math is her weakness, so she needs to focus on it first. At the start, her mind is not yet filled with other topics, and with little boredom, she can study more well. Nina has not yet expended energy on other subjects, so she should have enough strength to study complex details.

Besides, finishing the hardest things first gives a psychological boost. Easier tasks do not require as much effort, and when Nina finds content can be left for later.

As a rule of thumb, students should spend double the time on complex subjects than on those they find simpler to understand.

How are more tips, so he fall, toward consistently for good grade, but well and get enough rest. Take breaks to her screen calls, Never cram. Parents should make expectations clear, including consequences for sloppy work.

When homework becomes a habit, then it will cease to be a battle.

Queenie M. Lee-Chua is a professor of math and psychology at the University de La Salle-Dasmariñas. Contact her at klmdasal@yahoo.com.

HORSEBACK riding in Tuguegarao Highlands

STUDENT participants with PMPM employees led by managing director Chris Nelson

Top students choose their own adventure

A STUDENT experiences rappelling for the first time.

PHILIP MORRIS PHILIPPINES INC. recently held an innovative, physically- and mentally-challenging retreat dubbed "Choose Your Own Adventure" at the Tuguegarao Highlands.

A diverse group of 40 students leaders from 18 unions, (4-H, UST and Ateneo were selected from 2,000 students who applied for the retreat. A company rapper from Philip Morris Philippines was also on hand to work side-by-side with the students, who took on adventures that ranged from mountain ATV

MOUNTAIN biking on uphill slopes

following lunch at the Highlands Guesthouse, the students were asked to help themselves to the drums and percussive instruments that were laid out before them. Their random, erratic and individual beats slowly and seamlessly became one unified rhythm.

Human Resources Director Edith and PM marketing services manager Melanie Moya then related this activity to concern building.

"You have to discover how you can keep on beating your own drum and keeping in sync with the rhythm of the environment you are in," they said.

Exhibits from the Operations, Sales, Marketing, and Corporate Affairs departments of PM soon followed, to provide the participants a closer look at the company's workings. PM Management & Organization Development Manager Lourdes Atienza explained: "This allowed them to discover things they didn't know or didn't expect from a company like PM."

The participants mixed with hosts in various the company's state-of-the-art manufacturing premises, to sorts of responsible marketing and the company's active involvement in a wide array of corporate social responsibility activities in education, environment, arts and community-building.

Going up to the event's name, the participants were then given the chance to discuss their own adventures. Up for grabs were opportunities to drive an ATV and climb through mountainous rains, horseback riding along a various trail, mountain biking through uphill and downhill slopes, and rappelling.

During the recognition dinner, Ann Dalupan congratulated the participants for stepping up to the day's many challenges, while Management Team members Vincent Reyson, Roy Rhondith and Lacey Tan shared how their PM careers have also played out like adventures.

PARTICIPANTS compete to change tires the fastest during the car relay adventure.

How self-worth ...

From page F1

successes among students and within the family setup, name-calling—that is, calling a child mother, fatso, matapol—can be very damaging. Labels leave a way of sinking deep into the self and becoming self-fulfilling prophecies.

Don't insult the child's person. Criticize the behavior in a specific and concrete way. And when successful, encouragement.

Develop your own self-esteem. Find the support you need as a parent or as a student. Always have an awareness of your strengths and limitations. Remember that you have the power to build or tear down a child's sense of self-worth, as always be conscious of what you say and do.

Elaine's story has a happy ending. After several months of play therapy, he is now back in school and doing very well. The teacher who initially thought that he's left to join the ranks of our OFWs. She now teaches at an elementary school in North Carolina where, hopefully, she will no longer terrorize her young wards.

E-mail the author at calip-fabon@gmail.com

ABOVE, from left, Globe Autoligo's Olivier Lim, Beverly Hills 6750's David Rosenzweig, director and "Pinoy Big Brother" winner Lauren Dyogi

ENGINEER and photographer Victor Consunji

Multitasking wonder

THE RECENTLY LAUNCHED SAMSUNG i1330 SIM-enabling 6000 Smartphone—with its slim, sexy Ensemble design and innovative, cutting-edge functions—is perfect for the multitasking individual.

The phone has feature-rich functionalities, advanced messaging capabilities and unmatched connectivity. Measuring only 11.8 mm and weighing a mere 108 g, the Samsung i600 is the world's thinnest 3.2G smart phone with a full QWERTY keyboard.

It blends the desktop functionality of the Windows Mobile 5.0 platform with extensive multimedia capabilities to help people work on the go, stay in touch with family and friends or just have fun.

Victor Consunji, the general contractor of Ironsmith Inc., likes the Samsung i600 for its no-nonsense organizational features. "The camera allows me to take snapshots of the work in progress," he says.

Sybil Sorman Hagedorn, proprietor of The Insider retailer of women's clothes, accessories and expert courtesans, says the Samsung i600 is the perfect phone for her. "I can access my mail easily from anywhere with no hassle."

Lauren Dyogi, MIO-CBN vice president for entertainment, appreciates Samsung i600's wide and graphic LCD screen as well as its ability to store his super fast files without affecting other functions. "As the producer of 'Pinoy Big Brother,' I can tell you I DO!" My phone keeps me organized and allows me to keep a file of my important ideas."

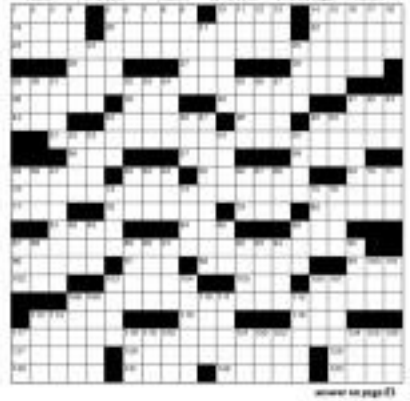
Olivier Lee, Globe Autoligo vice president for International sales, seeks a mobile phone that addresses his business needs and entertainment matches his sense of style. "I love that the Samsung i600 can keep up with my multitasking lifestyle."

David Rosenzweig, head of Beverly Hills 6750 and Brentgate Comprehensive Consultants Incorporated, says he Samsung i600 is his accessories. "It reminds me when bills are due. I would probably forget 60 percent of the stuff I need to do if it's not in my phone."

ENTREPRENEUR Tania Hagedorn

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD By Frank A. Longo — PROBLEM



answer on page F3

The Passion For Perfection.

Nokia N76. The computer done beautifully.

The Nokia N76 is the computer done beautifully. This newest model in the Nokia N-series features the latest in multimedia technology and modern design. It recognizes and meets the demands of the sophisticated, discerning and most of all, passionate mobile user. With its many advanced features and slim, sleek packaging, the Nokia N76 fulfills the individual's strong desire for both style and substance in their lifestyle.

Gabbie dela Rama
Editor in Chief, Fully Booked

MYX Magazine Managing Editor **Gabbie dela Rama** is a no-frills girl who prefers to go directly-to-the-point. "I love music," is her simple reply when asked about her job. That's the same way she answers about being the editor-in-chief of FULLY BOOKED's in-house magazine. "I love books as well," she says, "I love my job – it's the only prerequisite I've got to pour everything I have into doing something."

That approach is transferred to why she chose the Nokia N76. "The 2GB built-in memory can cope with my demands – especially, photos, audio and MP3 formats – a necessity when you're running a music magazine." But that's not all. "I can pretend it's a robot as well. I like robots."

Kate Torralba
Fashion Plate

Fashion designer/entrepreneur **Kate Torralba** describes herself as being "creative, multifaceted and expressive." Although you'd expect no different answer from someone in her field, Kate applies a certain daring that's hard not to find unique. "I'm not afraid to be different and love to inject a distinctive element in whatever I do," she says. "My style is always fun, feminine – always with a bit of spirit." For Kate, it's her passion to set herself apart and be known creatively, which influences her decisions – whether it's a pattern for a new dress or her technology. Describing having a mobile phone as "very essential", she says that the Nokia N76 slips perfectly into her creative outlook and crowd as it does into her handbags.

The Nokia N76 is at the forefront of mobile technology and design innovation because of one reason – passion. The Nseries – especially its latest model, the Nokia N76 – was produced with the same passion the individuals above apply in their own fields.

The style and substance of their personalities make for a perfect combination.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

North star

TriNoma is the new shopping address north of Manila

THE PLAYUL and creative use of water is seen in landscaped areas throughout the mall.

Text by Roxanne C. Burgos
Photos by Jim Sinico Paredes and Nancy Mendiola

PICTURE COUNTLESS visitors strolling beneath skylights, amid trees and plazas, past fountains and pools. You'd probably think the place was some billionaire's fabulous mansion-turned-museum.

Actually, it's TriNoma (Triangle in North on Metro Manila), located at the corner of North Avenue, Mindanao Avenue and Edsa, Quezon City. The place's elegance, drama and attention to detail signify how malling has been redefined.

What once a standalone store will now be an experience. The 13-hectare shopping, dining and entertainment complex will surely become a major destination.

A project of the Ayala Malls, the P1.5-bil. lion TriNoma was designed by Callison, the same group of world-renowned architects behind Greenbelt. Based on the conceptual design, the TriNoma architecture is the story of a journey.

"It is a journey inspired by the daily adventures of every person walking through TriNoma's doors. Its architectural design is a fusion of established and modern concepts, making it an exciting destination any day of the week," says Javier Hernandez, general manager.

Leisure environment

Ayala Malls creates a leisure environment that revolves around a park... plenty of greenery and open space, where people can unwind after work or relax with families and friends.

Starting off with the mall's main façade along North Avenue, TriNoma's sibling entryway gives a glimpse into the unique architecture visible throughout the mall. Highlighting the entrance is a "gravity-defying sculpture" that rises basically leaps from the first level upward. The play of architecture and of water is seen in the landscaped areas throughout the mall.

The Activity Center, an exhibit and event venue, serves as a community hub where people can just linger and enjoy different kinds of activities and performances. Its spherical shape—derived from all levels of the mall, is complemented by the unique tax design of its dome. The Activity Center covers 1,100 square meters and is equipped with a built-in stage as well as sound and light systems.

"The Activity Center's design evokes energy and will be the heart of events that will truly enthrall the audience," Hernandez says.

The mall caters to both the high-end shoppers (BB and other top brands are well represented) and the mass market, especially those living in the Mega Mayberry Town Line (since TriNoma is the last stop).

The new mall will also provide major in-to-mode transport hubs for almost all types of public transport. It has parking for 3,500 vehicles.

Retail entertainment

Exploring the different levels of the mall will take you to the various zones of TriNoma, which houses 357 tenants. If your motto is "Shop till you drop," prepare to do just that.

read on G2

THE Activity Center, an exhibit and event venue, serves as a community hub where people can just linger and enjoy different kinds of activities and performances.

Ayala Malls officials, (1st from) chief finance officer of TriNoma Carla Bengzon-Lorenzana, then-general manager of Ayala Malls Cars Rivera, acting director of Ayala Malls Trinoma Javier Hernandez, general manager of TriNoma Ramon Ferrandiz, VP and deputy group head of Ayala Malls Vicki Gonzalez, deputy group manager of TriNoma Manolo Vallejo, marketing supervisor of TriNoma Tess Punla, VP for business development and support services of Ayala Malls and Alvin Diaddo, operations officer

TEEN ZONE: an entire strip of boardwalk brands is dominated by multicolored lighting

BUSINESS apparel for men and women at SM

Mall of surprises

TriNoma has some 600 retail shops to cater to a wide variety of tastes and interests

Text by Glenda V. Mural
Photos by Jim Goco Pelaelo

THERE'S SOMETHING VERY charming, if somewhat intimidating, about turning into a massive new mall. There's that sense of triumph in unearthing new finds, whether it's a new store or even just an elusive piece of loot.

Then there are some who make purposeful trips to the mall, unimpressed by the discovery, the labyrinthine alleys, the general hustle that creates the ear of an shopaholics and mallrats. These are shoppers who know what they want, make the purchase and are out of there in no time.

Oh, there are also those who stay longer in the mall, but only in the general area of their interest.

At first glance, TriNoma, Ayala Malls' first shopping destination in the Northern Manila, is just another retail center — seven-island, but it boasts of seamless parking at fewer dining areas lonely there's a first in this side of the city.

A walk through, however, leads you to discover what sets this mall apart. It's not yet at the same time also intimate; it gives the vibe of a mall in any Hong Kong's Causeway Bay.

That, of course, there's the setting, a major planning factor that was given consideration, says deputy general manager Carmela Jalandoni.

Side by side on the ground level are the flagship stores of popular local fashion brands — Bench, Kamiseta, Repo, Kashieca, Penshoppe, Planet Sports. Grouped further down are affordable imported labels like Guess, Levi's and Giordano. Then there's the new Greenhills Japanese Zone, which features the collections of young Filipino designers and some popular brands from Australia, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia.

Also on the first level are known brands for corporate wear: Executives, Taupe, Bistro, Bergay, and the Belgian shoe brand VIM+, with a new line of petite and colorful footwear.

Literally above, up the escalator, are foreign corporate wear brands, including Theme up.

pare Level shoes by Charles & Keith, Aldo, Dorothy and Others.

TriNoma's store is the Brazilian leather goods brand Dumond's first store in the country, and it sells sexy bedecked bags that retail from P2,000-P5,000.

Meanwhile, the Singaporean brand Hidez, also a newcomer here, sells meticulously tailored to suit tongues for P5,000 and below.

Adjacent to the corporate wear brands are the sporty casual wear like the Adidas flagship, where the store carries called Mi Adidas, or you can make a fabric footwear, is offered. While this zone spans already offers a good range of the brand's products, including Stella McCartney and Adidas Originals, we were told a separate Adidas Originals would also open soon door.

A PLETHORA of colors, the ultra-trendy Crocs™ shop beckons

Shirts and shirts

Nearby is Vans, the sneaker-packed T-shirt brand from Sidney Kiss around is the T-shirt store with trendy prints called Grand Scratch, All-Star Reserve, and an interesting

FOR SHOE CONNOISSEURS: Run Too Run is a unique concept store selling cult shoe brands, where the merchandise is displayed à la buffet—at the footwear kind.

AFFORDABLE and chic footwear — the sandals straps and kitten heels of Bella Vita Syria

ET'CLUB wingtips, brogues and casual loafers at reasonable prices from Pedro

BRAZZO'S Diamond brand offers a selection of ladies' shoes (above and right) and bags

SOLEY, the French-born street-casual wear

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS: Abstract products and customers, including musicians, artistes and sub-culture – from front row: Five Seasons, Samsui

STREET: Casuals from United Colors of Benetton

ISTANBUL'S counterpoint: Tokers, Tebet

FROM FLATS: Ladies can bank (below), WAC of Malaysia is sure to cater to the desires of shoe-loving Filipinas.

ARTWORK sells vintage-style tees and ultra-kinky shoes (above).

CROSSOVER: Supermarket Metro's special selection of casual and party wear (left) and accessories (above) from local and regional designers

ADIDAS in Tebrau is first in the country to offer this exclusive-made-McAdidas service, where customers get dressed by swapping on a pair fully dedicated to a sneakers.

OLYMPIC World members interactive shopping kit including in-store videogame machine, promotional race photo video wall, 8 table-mess 200 athletic to seek covering apparel, footwear and gadgets.

DAVID & Goliath menswear shirts

ALL TWARD footwear by Marrell

North star

From page G1

Hundreds of specialty and lifestyle shops fill the shopping mall.

The Town and Sports Zones have a very young, hip and active feel, complemented by graffiti art and pockets of gathering spaces where the young people can meet up and hang out.

On the other hand, the area has imported brands from a more classic, elegant bunch, exuding global diversity and comfortable style. Gadget buffs and techies have their very own IT Zone, to look before the kiasu to seek more multitechnology.

The Retail Zone, with its various interior design, furniture and home accessories stores, appeals to every person's desire to create a personal space or a "good nest" for the family.

The design is inviting and welcoming, that universities find people want for their true homes.

The Wellness Zone is spa-inspired, distinguished by soft hues and flooring.

In contrast, the Kids Zone is a burst of color, combining the senses of the young users and inspiring them to imagine, create and play.

Flagship stores

Tebrau is to open four outlets for Brands, Boutiques, Folded and Hung, Exercises, Boys, Doggies, Adidas and Three Zone have opened their flagship stores there.

People are Royals, Shoe Salon, Two 4 U, Powerbooks, Kamdarian, Avnet, Galleria Quartermaster, Rumbonaise, Holden and Landes, Flexible Systems, Fitness First Platinum and The Spirit for their particular brand of services and goods.

Other popular and noticeably more by local and international brands, as well as essentials, cafes and restaurants centres can also be found in Tebrau Point.

A vast array of entertainment and fast food outlets are scattered throughout

ATRIA Mall creates a leisure environment with lots of greenery and open space.

Tebrau's outlets, satisfying every palate and budget. These include Le Maison, Cafe Caledon, Mongkut, Cafe Breton, Dominic, Restjen, Zong, Food Choices, Kenjo Kantin, and Cafe Mon Grand.

The mall also brings together two retail giants: Giordano and Landmark. Giordano has opted to focus on fashion and home here. Landmark will move on the supermarket and department store along the Johor section of Tebrau.

At the topmost level of Tebrau is a design connection, the Tebrau Park. It is a four-level mall spanning a vast leisure area. The lower park level, with its fine-dining restaurants, has a more subdued and romantic atmosphere perfect for dates. The upper level, on the other hand, has concert-style feel, and ideal for night-out with friends. It also has an outdoor stage for intimate shows and performances.

Tebrau will have its grand launch at 10 this year but already the crowds have come.

TriNoma fully integrates the relaxing ambience of a park with the upbeat pace of an urban haven

Sprightly yet Zen-like

TODDLERS have a great time at Timezone's Baboo Wheel.

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Rony Hamillado and Roger Carpio

ENTERTAINMENT IS A MAJOR PART of retailing. And if it's entertainment you're after, you'll find it within the 11-hectare TriNoma.

"Entertainment will definitely not consist of your usual mall shows. Think jazz quartet at TriNoma Park, live performances at the Activity Center or events just like relaxing sound of a waterfall and fountain," says Javier Hernandez, general manager.

TriNoma is running day and night, offering Rural Timezone, movies to its seven cinemas, shows and concerts at the Activity Center and TriNoma Park.

Kiddie fun centers

TriNoma's 1,500 sqm Timezone at Level 4, the biggest in the country, according to Hernandez, features unique interactive games and attractions.

Toddlers will surely enjoy the plane, train and balloon-related rides. Teenagers and even families, meanwhile, can ring their hearts out at Timezone's Music Zone.

Gymboree, a global leader in child development programs for children 0-5, offers fun activities that help kids develop social, physical and intellectual skills. Gymboree is at Lev. el 3.

GYMBOREE offers art, music, yoga, fitness fun and inspiring activities.

TOP: TRINOMA'S THX cinema, which features La-Z-Boy furniture, and six all-digital theaters make big-screen entertainment even bigger. Above: Kids find it hard to resist the biggest Timezone in the Philippines.

State-of-the-art cinemas

The mall's seven cinema at Level 4 have all digital sound systems, plus luxurious seats with cupholders and cushioned sides. Cinema 7, a 600-seater THX theater, features La-Z-Boy furniture.

"With Dolby Digital theaters' state-of-the-art technology, they also have the same-matched auditoria seating as the cinemas in the United States," says Hernandez.

Also at Level 4, mallgoers enjoy snacks at Café Breton, Tavern, Shokudo, Starbucks, Mc Donald's, Jollibee's and Goldilocks Cafe.

Every Sunday, a Mass is held at 08.30 a.m. at the cinema lobby.

Unique design

Covering Trinoma's retail, dining and entertainment choices is its design, which fully integrates the Zen-like atmosphere of a park with the upbeat pace of an urban haven, in the tiniest level is TriNoma Park, an outdoor mountain-cum-bush for outdoor events and relaxation, with beautiful landscaping and unique water facilities.

The one-hectare area is divided into levels. The upper park level is perfect for chilling out with friends, while the lower level, accessible by a winding staircase lined with indoor waterfalls, is a more intimate area for dates or quiet quality time with the family.

Check out the water installations that rhythmically leap from the ground level all the way to the topmost level, which then flow into an ovoid pool surrounding the park.

Northern delights

From page G4

SATISFY your hunger at the Food Choices.

AMADO Flores, son of culinary expert Margarita Flores, at the newly opened Cibo in TriNoma

YAMAMOTO for its famous Bibingka with Quezong Pizza and Puto Bumbong served with free hot tsokolate.

For a place filling snack, you may want to have Seafood Pansit Guimpo or Curtaining Gulay Sisi, if hunger strikes you at noon. It's time to order Margarita Sandwich, Mongo Binatogan, Kare-kare Bagoong ng Bida, Lengua Caldereta and Lengua Sisig.

In Cocina Flavores have also become popular among big groups. The Inihaw Platter, for only P550, consists of grilled pork, chicken barbecue, tangos and sugpo or with either ng tomatoes and onions on hand.

If you feel you need a more stylish yet relaxing coffee break in a quaint and cozy ambiance, head straight to Café Breton (4th Level).

DELIGHTFUL sweets from Donuts Dream

It's such a coincidence place to spend a few quiet hours or, drinking have paired with French crepes and chatting with friends. The young and trendy for and, he sure crowd hangs out in the coffee shop.

Before you have to choose the 20 savory crepes. Attempt to munch something sweet that have become bestsellers as La Diyang with mangoes, chocolate syrup and ice cream; Fantastic, with banana, Nutella, ice cream and Grand Marnier Banana Grosse Liqueur), with garlic, chili, tomatoes, nuts, cheese, and Pesonino, with smoked bangus, dill cream, sour cream and capers.

Crêpes serves refreshing salads, gourmet sandwiches and burgers for a filling meal. Crêpes has a long list of hot and cold coffee and espresso drinks.

AMADO Flores, son of culinary expert Margarita Flores, at the newly opened Cibo in TriNoma

More dining choices

If you can't decide what to eat for the day, simply walk through Trinoma's Food Choices (2nd Level) and check out its offerings. Before you know it, you'll be ordering a dish or two.

The new food court is sure to satisfy your hunger with a variety of cuisines—Japanese, Chinese, Italian and Filipino.

Check it out for a wide selection of pizza, pasta, chicken and salads. Just take out of its 36 mouth-pizzas. Others include Italian-Sausage and Steak, Supreme Pizza, Three-Cheese Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza and Hawaiian Pizza and you'll surely be satisfied.

Pasta choices include Parmesan, Pesto, Carbonara, Al fredo, Bolognese and Seafood.

The hands-of-the-hotel and dinner crowd at Food Choices is set against an environment that is spacious, cool and clean.

Other exciting food outlets are Hamburguesa, Shawarma, Sosaku, Sushi et Cetera, Today's Japanese, Le Cheng Yan House, Siesta Barbecue, Pinoy Favorites, Hungry Inc., Kanon's, Classic Donuts, Caramel and Steak Station.

Many establishments at the newly opened TriNoma have found ways to add innovative touches to their offerings and services

DIMENSIONE's colorful chairs are one just the latest fun accessories, too.

ITALIAN DESIGNED wood stools from Dimensione

Classic but fresh

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Roger Carpio

ABABOY has tons of colored pieces to fit to different decor connection.

MINDY for sisters at Ababoy makes the most of small's natural shape.

AVANT tapper lets a restaurant watch and CD TV by hiss-off or hot-off.

COLORFUL Asian decorations can make bed time fun time for kids.

POWER rock in bright colors seem to indicate that women are turning into handpersons, too.

CROSSBREEDS HOW IT'S LIFESTYLE in changing. Headstones for Best Home Center now have to change its name to Handyman.

Modern Co. appointed vice president for merchandising, and Lois Gerardelo, marketing manager, say hardware stores like Handyman are no longer the exclusive domain of men.

Almost half of their customers, they say, are women. And, indeed, new stores Handyman sites soon, except for a whole family. the customers also endowed Headquarters newest branch of Tomoni, the Ayala Malls group's latest investments in Manila decorator, Quezon City, were women.

This fact has not gone unnoticed by manufacturers, many of whom have started to cater convenient to handyman specialties. Tools no longer come in drab gray, black or olive green. A wide assortment of colors is now available that even the most handless beginner will go to. My sandpersonal worry save and time to make a power tool it comes in buttercup yellow or lime green or peppy red.

And the hardware selections can also get a very much richer favorite color—purple, green, red, blue.

A visit of Williamsburg will also draw the shopper to Antonio, a firm know of is Singapore-based company, that sells bed and bath linens. The clients' designs and colors seem to guarantee sweet dreaming.

Cherry Grim, merchandising and marketing manager, says they encourage mix complementary pieces for all your bedrooms to whatever design you want.

At Tomoni alone, while it no longer sort a chair. The way they are designed, they are even accessories as well. Consisting a variety of jelly colors, in metal mesh, resin or solid plastic, the chairs are not just functional household items but conversation pieces. There is even a pair that looks like giant push from women's fashion section.

Abi Gonzales, store manager, says the same are called ballpoints but are also literally cash when you sit on them.

At best, a pair of them is the exact, it also one of the coolest showpieces at Graham's Gallery. recent gallery The modern chairs, looking almost too delicate to be sat on, are the works of Bimpe Reyes. He also has a fine white wooden luminary pieces at the gallery.

Quite recently, just in Quezon City and Ayala Ave., a new concept store is mesmerizing the avids of exhibitionist artists Ogbo Hizzalo, design and Hans Ingrid, interior others, and promising young painters like Edward Antonio, Ivan Acuña and Michelle Tan.

Asian collectibles

Next door, displays offers an array of Asian collectibles—Buddhas from Thailand, wooden doors and window frames with intricate carvings from Indonesia, Japanese sad dolls from several other places. Hence, wooden furniture pieces by Filipino artisans follow the natural shape of the wood used for some very unusual configurations. Most of the items are practically one-of-a-kind.

With pieces at Ababoy are others as fresh

A CHAIR by Ranjit Rayes (left) and a painting by Wire of Red make an arresting Quezon scene's showpieces.

THE TADPOLE from Kinoko likes a prop in a wall scene.

TIRE ornaments in bright colors look like oversized jacks stones

Dots at Promenade, the boy wonderland center shop opens with a whole universe devoted to fairer for boys. Glenn Mendiola, branch manager, says the fairy devoid to attend advance sales to the latest tale in the life of the former wizard. The tradesman makes the best use of the space, stacking floor to ceiling with toys and games to please every member of the family, from baby to grandparents. Mendiola says a coffee shop will soon be added to the store's amenities.

Healthy lifestyles

Though there's another branch nearby, Ang Ionos, store manager, says Healthy Options Tri-Noma is different because it's only the third outlet of the chain to offer frozen items and bulk sales. In addition, the branch, of course, has the usual items that has made Healthy Options a favorite among people who are who have adopted healthy diets but have some gone the whole hog, opting for healthy lifestyles.

Healthy Options offer not just organic food items but even organic toiletries such as soaps, shampoos, conditioners, etc., making it a one-stop destination for the health conscious.

And, speaking of health, the Medical City, one of the better-known hospitals in the world, has opened its eighth satellite clinic—the ninth is a mall—at Trinoma. Ralph Rivera, clinic manager, says the clinic is equipped for minor surgeries that will not require confinement. Open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day, it accepts only outpatients. Cases that will require hospitalization are referred to the main hospital in Ortigas Ave. Ext.

Just across from the Medical City is the Asian Eye Institute, which has decided to go "medical" with its first branch. AEI's Vision Express in Pritil Grounds says they want to be close to patients in the northern parts of Metro Manila who find it inconvenient to go to the main office in Makati. They also want to attract a broader clientele, including those from the nearby provinces.

Just the clinic does only diagnostics and examinations. Any operation will be referred to the main clinic because, according to Dr. Edgardo G. Lasambuyo, "our surgeon requires a very high degree of mobility."

FOUR mannequins try on fancy rabbit's coats at Toys R Us.

THESE Healthy Options items are meant to address specific problems.

STRESS not nowhere to the satellite clinic of Medical City

DR. EDGARDO Lasambuyo and Anna Karina Peter-Dimaisip with AEI Trinoma staff members

CAFÉ Breton's Cafe Lagune, Breton's Mozzarella Burger, Mushroom in and Cream Crepe, and Cafe Mocha

LA MAISON'S classy ambience

Northern delights

DORER Sole Fish with Blue cheese Sauce

Text by Margie Hugo Reyes
Photos by Rudy Caparas

From fine dining to fastfood, TriNoma has a tasty plateful of earthly delights

IT'S A DOUBLY NEW DINING EXPERIence in the area, plus modern and super size TriNoma mall. The sprawling mall is Quezon's latest catering to mixed appetites.

Even if you're not into high fashion or trendy shopping, you can spend an enjoyable day at this family-oriented mall, having either a meal on top of sightseeing at Café Breton or a glass of pure passion at Cilio.

The mall's restaurants are ready to deliver culinary delights to satisfy all kinds of diners.

If you haven't heard of La Maison Cluf Level, tel. 2146321), it is because it is in Manila for the first time. Owners are husband-and-wife Rap Francis Alcantara and Malaya Pangandaman, who opened their casual French restaurant in Fl Square Mall in Lahug, Cebu, in 2000.

Due to the overwhelming response of the Cebuanos to lavender-scented of tomato and olive and refreshing seafood, the couple opened another branch in Ayala Center Cebu last August.

"It's been our goal to have a restaurant," says Malaya Alcantara. "It's exhausting but my Filipino girl friend who is married to a Swedish chef helped us put up the place."

The chef, Ruben Lilja, who became the di. tourism partner in the business in Cebu, has created a menu typical of French cuisine, which is a bit heavy on sauces. But don't be at an immense appetizer selection of French delicacies to suit the Filipino palate, such as Chef's Duck Liver Pate, Salmon and Mango Salad and Oyster Stew Fish Fillet with creamy Bronnese Sauce.

TriNoma's La Maison, French for "home," is set up like a cosmopolitan brasserie-style restaurant and café. It has a see-through kitchen that allows guests to view the grilling and flambeing of dishes in spirited French ambiance, it has a homey feel as exemplified by its signature "umbrella" ceiling lamps, dainty placemats, wooden tables and upholstered tartan chairs.

Orange and blue dominate the entire room, providing a vibrant, festive air ideal for a/the family dining experience. Lumiquin also features a private dining room good for 20 people.

The menu includes a large selection of meat and seafood, broiled and grilled food, soups and salads. Its signature Barbados Filet, which is good for today's busy and executive four-to-five people, has been a consistent crowd drawer.

"We cater to big groups and families," says Alcantara. "Our barbecue or family meal feast is specially patterned to promote sharing."

The whole cake is also available, almost falling off the menu, and is garnished with honey chili sauce.

Other house fares: Braised Baby Back Ribs, Baked Oyster Bonde, Herb-crusted Chicken, Chateaubriand and Filet Mignon, Quesadillas, Tenderloin Bata.

Breaks include Blue Cheese Steak, Fillet Mignon and Fillet Duxo.

Offered only at the TriNoma branch is the Mystic Blue Cheese Steak and Burger, which really excite in your mouth.

"We're quite happy with the way things are going for us now," says Alcantara, who likes the TriNoma branch best because of friends Vida Tiaoqui, Ellen Navarro, Mark Cuenca and Jim Sebastian. Lilja is the first consultant.

Just to prove how popular they've suddenly become since they opened last May, the restaurant had to turn down about 200 guests during Father's Day. On weekends, it's a must to be reserved in advance.

La Maison also has a good selection of wines from France, Chile, Australia and Italy.

Asian specialties

Asian-inspired restaurants, offering mixed authentic or fusion cuisine, also eat up a lot of good space in TriNoma.

Crisanneda Cluf Level, tel. 9023607) serves only the freshest fruits and seafood blended with authentic Thai, Vietnamese and Singaporean cooking.

Those who are looking for exciting culinary experiences must check out Crisanneda, by Singaporean Chili Crab, which is cooked in chili paste, eggs and other secret spices, will definitely whet the appetite. Also try the Crab Marinara, crab sautéed in olive oil, garlic, chili and white wine, that makes for a most memorable meal.

The 70-seater restaurant also specializes in creative seafood every imaginable. From steamed, deep-fried to baked and barbecued. Check out the Vietnamese Butter-Ginger Crab, sautéed in lemon, lots of garlic and ginger, and Lobster in Olive Oil and Garlic Broth, lobster sautéed in white wine, olive oil, garlic and chilies.

Crisanneda also presents memorable rice dishes that people keep coming back for, such as the Vietnamese Seafood Paella, an Asian-style paella topped with shrimps, squid, fish, green peas, asparagus and egg. It's certainly as bamboo as it's very inviting. There's also Pineapple Fried Rice with chicken, pineapple and raisins and served in fresh pineapple.

TriNoma is Crisanneda's first branch after The Podium and Power Plant in Rockwell. It's run and operated by Raymund Magdaleno, who's also part owner of Sari Cruz and Cresent 'n Eggs group of companies.

Recipes by Café Breton Cluf Level, tel. 6810601) may run a shortlist of value-conscious, highlighting Filipino favorites including Crispy Tilapia, Dining-Dining, Kare-kare, Iberian Beef Stew, Lechon Kawali with Kangkong and Secreto's Chicken, chicken cooked deep-fried and served with eggplant.

Managed by Agustin de Guzman, Breton encourages the family set of dining with menu, easily sophisticated ambience, simple cooking, friendly service and fair prices.

This Asian diner offers a breezy ambience as diners by its minimalist interior with only white, beige and gray as dominant colors. And there's no compromise for this. The dishes are also simple and flavorful, only some from its local, reflects its locality the taste of its customers.

TriNoma Recipes is the fourth branch of

CAFÉ Breton's Cafe Lagune, Breton's Mozzarella Burger, Mushroom in and Cream Crepe, and Cafe Mocha

LA MAISON'S classy ambience

DORER Sole Fish with Blue cheese Sauce

CHOCO Lovers Cake

SEAFOOD Bounty

MARISSA Mercedes

PRETTY portion of Barbados Ribs

OYSTER Royale

CHEF'S Duck Liver Pate

CREME Brûlée

HERB-CRUSTED Chicken

PEPPERONI pizza and Pescadora pasta

BAKED Lasagna

ROAST Chicken with baked potatoes and black rice

CHEF d'Angelo's display counter at the Food Choices

ENTERTAINMENT

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

Edna Emnia G. Valerio

INSIDE
Robin Williams at his most irreverent Only In H'wood /H2
Instructions for local media, top of the tabloids Rushes/H6

The many faces of a winner

MOVIE SEEN HER IN NEARLY every comeback role. Charito Pe Fernandez has never disappointed. Today the week, she won Best Actress in South Africa's 2005 Durban International Film Festival for her portrayal of a lesbian, (...) opposite Iza Calzado in Jason Abalos's "Kubrador." This is her 12th acting award so far.

She has swayed the juries of Asian Iza's homeland sibling in Erik Matti's "Masiyan", a self-funded feature from the shows in "Nasaan Ka Nang Kailangan Kita," also by Mendoza, and a different second role in Joel Lamangan's "Ako Legal Wife."

CHEER FACTOR

She's also played a desperate spouse (Jeffrey Jerusalem's "Batid (Secret)"), a vain beauty-contest hopeful (Laurice Guillen's "Nasaan Ka Nang Kailangan Kita"), and even retired pilot (Abbi Tiongki's "Twilight Dancers"). What other pleasant surprises are in store for her fans? Marinel R. Cruz

Gary still in the fast lane at 42

By Pachoko Concepcion
Contributor

THE STUBBLE AND TOUSLED HAIR MAKE Gary Valenciano look younger than his 42 years. Even the casual tee and torn jeans fit him snugly, like he's ready to roam the malls all day.

The singer-songwriter-TV host is, in fact, in a restaurant of the newly opened Trinoma mall in Quezon City, holding a press conference to talk about his latest triumphs abroad and some exciting projects here, among them his "Pure Inspiration" concert tour.

A recent concert tour in medium-size venues in Washington, California and Canada gave him some insights into how fans take his music.

Gary quotes: "They were singing along from start to finish. I mean, it's not unusual for the crowd to do as with the ballads. But for them to know every single line of the fast songs, even that really got me."

Which were the most requested songs?

"'Growing Up,' 'Shout for Joy' 'Sana Maulit Muli' ... Sometimes when I'm pushed to—to sing mga kanta ko. I would have preferred not to sing them anymore abroad. But when you hear people say, 'It's my first time to watch you in concert, our youngsters sing this and that....' And when Using them gives me joy in their faces, you know, suddenly it's like the songs sound new again.... Sometimes I think I was the original singer of 'I Will Be Here' sabash. I actually consider it a part of me."

Awit nominations

Speaking of albums, wife and manager Angeli Valenciano volunteers the information that the 2006 Gary V CD, "Believer" (Universal Records), has just received the second biggest number of nominations in the forthcoming third Awit Awards.

"It's one of my best-produced albums," Gary confirms. "The songs were so good, that I really looked forward to singing them."

Another reason for excitement is that Gary the same recently wrapped up a digital film project, "Kidlat," which stars Barbara Perez and Rodjun Cruz. His role was very short, Gary says. "I did it because the story was good. It's about two lolas who always end up doing good things at their own expense. I play their father. I loved the role because I wasn't playing a singer or somebody in the music business. I didn't have to be my best. I was also acting in a very natural, unmannered way."

The father of two grown-up boys himself is naturally glad that one of them, Paolo, is also in to music—but of a different kind. "Perhaps for

(MORE H10)

Ir-Reverend Williams

LOS ANGELES—IF ONLY ROBIN Williams' recent films were as funny as he is in interviews.

The guy deserves a great movie that will really showcase his natural comic flair, manifestic protests and energy. Or perhaps he should do another stand-up routine again—just place a camera in front of him and he will take care of the rest. Then, more people will be reminded, as they watch a DVD of those live shows, how hilarious he can really be.

Meantime, there's "License to Wed," which stars Robin as a pastor, Reverend Frank, who gives pre-nuptial counseling to Mandy Moore's real Jolie Kendall from the TV comedy, "The Office"). The likes, true-hope proposition soon into required inquisitive to ask Robin about his failed first marriage and thriving second marriage to TV-Act Marsha Garces Williams.

Robin also talked about his recent rehabilitation from alcoholism and relieved several times to another movie, "Knocked Up," which is the funnier film. The wedding interview was before a his most trysworst.

Has having two married a couple of times.

No. It's a survival. Divorce is something you don't wish upon anybody, but it exists. So maybe we should bend the rules for people should get to choose roads other than the 16 views. Like, what are your skills? What are your automotive books are? It's the same thing with "Knocked Up," where you also have the idea of someone who—rather than wedding fatherhood—sees.

Any anecdotes when you were dating women with Mandy and Jolie?

I find a very funny moment when I was doing a scene with Mandy and Jolie. They were talking about some of entertainments. Jolie said something like, "She was going, I like it when you do this." Jolie—she said, "I bet you do." All of a sudden, I was looking at Mandy and realizing, even if I was 20 years younger, 30 call for you still be low [he is running in] this month). I got into a scene more than an actor should. Here I was with a collar on her going, "Yeah, pretty girl, who's your lover?"

Do you think celebrity cars can be justified?

Celebrity can be justified! I hating basic divorced cases, no. What someone says, "Dear Reverend Frank, is it okay if it's with an ugly girl?" No. "But she fell and somehow condition my penis."

If you ask people who have been married once, "What was the cause of the divorce?" Um, ann't maybe if your penis could testify in your trial, you could basically damn rule out number? "It wasn't me."

If you were a pastor, what kind would you be?

I would be like a really reformed rabbi at the Budd Shiny Church.

What gets you through when times get rough?

I having a wife [Marsha] who's really understanding and tough. One of the classes I should have taken earlier is on listening. I think I'm getting better at that. The idea of putting attention and really being aware helps a lot, and fighting that which is this movie is about how you deal with all the many s--t that happens and say, "Okay, I don't like that." Then realize 5/6 of all that you could change much either at the core has got our teeth and a peaceful under standing. Getting to know someone is a lifelong task and I'm learning that.

Rev. Frank puts this couple through many tests before he marries them. Are you, what would be the hardest test? Perhaps an act for three weeks?

As my age, I'd feel like refund money! What are we talking about? Shut up for six for three weeks. Five, I got the math. So we numbers die-about of anticipation—in three weeks, will we have sex? You know, other ways of connecting with each other. Reverend Frank may people our sex to a conflict resolver. Just ask the crossdays. It really works.

Sex as a weapon?

It's one of the greatest [laughter]. I'm not the thought of it that we're up to weapon for a threat, or connection other than [laughter]. I'm a big fan. I come from there. It's a great negotiating tool. Guys will make everything for sex, even the words, "I love you." For every that's opened but some guys will go, "Time, I love you—let's do this." At this point, every guy penis is going, you bet, let's go. But it's a powerful driver but okay. Besides that, what else do you have? I love words like "love" and "happiness" without that? It's like the story of "Knocked Up." You know, has and suddenly, it's time to grow up. Be a lot of guys, growing up is a difficult thing.

What drives you to this day?

Get a laugh—you know. It's a drug. It works. I have gotten up to anything else except coffee. I can't give up coffee because there's a time breaks every-line-box [laughter].

You mentioned "Knocked Up"—I'd.

You mean "Knocked Up" [laughter]. Yes.

Yes, "Knocked Up."

Yes "I—I Up." But that is the title to Alan sometime [laughter]. What's the difference?

Would a movie like this, "License to Wed," and its topic, marriage, have appealed to you perhaps 20 years ago?

During Green movement, hearing had that marriage fall apart, and having a second marriage, this film would appeal to me only if it were funny. The same thing with "Knocked Up." It would appeal to me just as a comedy because where you were 6, you are a whole culture—all those things guys. I grew up with those people. I know a lot of them who are still that stoned at 40 or 50. The idea of them growing up or maybe making a commitment—there's a whole set of people who will actually wonder what Dale Hilton had for dinner something worse learning what's going on in the world. To me, that is more disturbing than anything else.

I live in a city [San Francisco] where people are so certified of gay marriage that they are, same-sex marriage. If married guys live in your neighborhood, it's only going to make the area better. Instead of having two flamingos on the lawn, there are going to be other nice things on the lawn. Maybe a sculpture. It might be that of a penis but it will be interesting [laughter].

What happened to your first marriage?

I fell in love and then I fell out of love. I started off and everything seemed wonderful. Then I realized, maybe I was too young, maybe I should have spent a little more time going, "Okay, what do I really want?" In that first marriage, I was in love but all of a sudden, there I'm—"Shaft & Bloody" became a bit—and then put a lot of pressure on this marriage.

How are your kids?

Very-close because for your children and so they don't seem to explode. Zelda, you go, "Mom" My son [Zachary, 24, from his marriage to Melanie Mitchell] graduated from NYU's Tisch Institute. I don't have a college degree. Maybe that doesn't bode well for me. I said, "What are you going to do, open a grocery organic shop?" Now he's studying acting. Zelda (17) is acting on

Did You Know...

2122 A.D. is when Mr.
1929: Frank Sinatra made his first record, "From the Bottom of My Heart" (Jr."Melancholy Mood."
1964: The Supremes released their first hit, "Where Did Our Love Go."
1988: Cassette five Digitals announced the break-up of Cream.
1993: "Playboy" and "Penthouse" magazines went on sale with nude photos of Madonna.
1998: The movie "Ghost" was released.
1993: The Grateful Dead gave their last concert with Jerry Garcia, at Chicago's Soldier Field.

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DIE HARD 4.0 POTD | TRANSFORMERS | DIE HARD 4.0 POTD

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GALLERIA

1 DIE HARD 4 • THX
11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

2 TRANSFORMERS
10:00 1:15

3 DIE HARD 4
11:45 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 TRANSFORMERS
12:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

7 DIE HARD 4
1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

8 TRANSFORMERS
10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00

9 TRANSFORMERS
10:45 2:00 4:15 6:30

10 TIYANAKS
1:30 3:15 5:30 7:30 9:45

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METRO EAST and
PIONEER

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ERMITA

1 DIE HARD 4
11:00 1:40 4:20 7:10 10:00

2 BIZO 11:00 1:30 3:45
FANTASTIC FOUR 4:30 6:45 9:00 10:00

3 TRANSFORMERS
10:15 2:15 5:00 8:00

4 PARAISO
12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

5 TIYANAKS
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00

6 DIE HARD 4
12:00 3:00 6:15 9:00

7 TRANSFORMERS
11:00 1:45 4:45 7:15 10:00

METRO EAST

1 TRANSFORMERS
2:00 5:00

2 DIE HARD 4
11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00

3 DIE HARD 4
10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30

4 TRANSFORMERS
11:45 2:30 5:15 8:00

5 PARAISO
10:00 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00

6 FANTASTIC FOUR
1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30

7 DIE HARD 4
11:00 2:00 4:45 7:30

8 TIYANAKS
12:15 3:30 6:45 9:00 11:15

NOVALICHES

1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 DIE HARD 4

4 TIYANAKS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 TRANSFORMERS

PIONEER

1 DIE HARD 4
11:45 2:30 5:00 8:00

2 DIE HARD 4
1:30 4:30 7:30

3 TRANSFORMERS
2:15 5:00 8:00

4 TRANSFORMERS
10:00 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

STA. ROSA

1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TIYANAKS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 TRANSFORMERS

LIPA

1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 THE INVISIBLE
4 TIYANAKS
5 TRANSFORMERS

DASMARIÑAS

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TIYANAKS

IMUS

1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 NEXT
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TIYANAKS
6 FANTASTIC FOUR

ANGELES

1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 DIE HARD 4

TARLAC

1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 THE INVISIBLE

STARMILLS

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS

4 TIYANAKS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 DIE HARD 4

BACOLOD

1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 RESERVE
5 THE INVISIBLE
6 TIYANAKS

ILOILO

1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TIYANAKS
6 THE INVISIBLE

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OPENS JULY 11

Rushes Sunday

From page 16

JAY MANALO

• Jay Manalo

• Carla Jane Ramos sa Tropikal Depression ang kanyang unang pelikula sa LVC.

• Jaime Fresh sa Manila with Ruichoy Capuyagan. (Bilis ng mahwahahaha!)

• Tawang awards season si Angel Locsin, para manalo ang pelikula sa kanyon.

• Angel, sorang sa Long na pagkain sa Dos.

• Angel, crush ang Anatik si Jejeal ng ABS? Oohlong Bahn?)

• Angel, Maki-Photocard, magsama na Dos. (Joong?)

Hindi, hindi!

• Ate Jones, head nagpapahinga.

• Kailangan Dida Bonifacio ng mask. hindi mask daw.

• Hindi kami ka sasiga—Elton at Bobay

• Hindi nagpag-kamo si Paolo—Wendy Valdez.

• Wendy, umaamag nag-alam alam Paolo at hindi nag-sisi.

• Sam Milby, dyan pumasin si Angelica Panganiban.

• Sam, takot agamit si Angelica ng Glock. Mahirahin.)

What's NSG?

• Nina FHM winners: MQ (Ma-San Quality)

• Kuneth, anyone kay Wendy kahit alas ang FHM winners.

• Ayan Ama two-liol a Bodin kayo kay Mickey

• Lani stangle ng FHM.

• Paolo at Geo Ama, nag-date na Sweetplum.

• Wendy, pinalanoral ina Ama, Bea, Geo Ama at Mickey. (Ano Dum kidk sumwithang as the Sum.)

• FHM at Sweetsmates, many honeymoon kung mag-aruna? (Sirsand, Anything. Phone.)

• Ana bakanga, kamatinsa thrash ng Kitty's ads of Jolly Tim-mesha at Sesa Soft. (Nemesha thrash!)

Get it!

• Gamma, K de Jesus magle honeymoon sa Hong Kong. (Wedding o Hotel?)

• Kathina Hidil, Cristine Hirose, pili pinagsasabong. (Ito ngo.)

• Sangsang Gamo, ito Cristine ang Cheap cheap ng dating. (Ito ngo.)

• Mega, artibantu sa kar-Ibon si Manlio. (Oo?)

• Nope at Hacito, may bagong show. (Ah.)

• Ina Villanueva ad-vider: Wow of girls na daw sex! Sex-conscious about Cunning/sexual/talented daw sila pero di pa just be as natural as they can be. Then they can share to any-thing they like." (Haha ng Sex?)

• Shalha Santacruz aalitalk ng 30 kami hoge mas in love sil.

• Annabelle at Sid Ia, hali na.

• Shalh to the press: Don't hurt me people. (Allergic me sa mga press people to Shalha)

Wanted: Game Girls

GIRLS, DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

There are two big matches going on, each with its own requirements and promise of celebrity.

Pop group

Sony BMG is looking for five talented young women to form a new pop group to be called Generation.

The search, according to the organizers, continues the format of "a label contest that said a beauty pageant. It is open to Filipinas from 18 to 25 years old, who "possess beauty, are opposed, outgoing personality and outstanding singing and dancing skills."

The lucky five will win a recording/talent management contract from Sony BMG and an endorsement deal worth P100,000 each.

Auditions are being held at the Sony BMG headquarters, Delta Home Depot, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, and at the Chris Cahilig Consultancy office, Unit 1602 Cityland Shaw Tower, St. Francis Street corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.

Call 687-2449 or (0920) 503 0752.

Miss Troubadour

Ladies from 16 to 23 years old are invited to try out for Miss Troubadour 2007 at the Ma-Kinain Plaza, third cor. Makati Avenue on July 11 and 14.

Applicants should each bring with them high-heeled shoes, a cocktail dress and a swimsuit.

Audition is from 1 to 5 p.m. Pageant night is set on Sept. 7, 6 p.m. at the DBC Tent. The first Binibining Global Cebu is on Tagalog.

The grand prize winner will receive a trip for two to Bangkok P200,000, and a scholarship grant worth P500,000, plus other prizes.

Support big the pageant is Pepsi Light.

White Castle Girl

Distillers Limitless and media partner MEGASIS just wound up a nationwide search for contenders for the title, "Best White Castle Girl."

The winner pe ople searched from contestants in Interview (starting contestant at 11 p.m., with the grand finals set on July 28, at 10:30 P.M.

Previous White Castle bets are: Agnes Bustos, Evangeline Pascual, Penny Simmons, Trichie Agbayani, Laura Tolentino, Shiela Lozada Lopez, Lirlet Ogsalo, Ta Mecia Gonzales, Gianni Martin, Glydel Mercado and Rosanne Barroso.

This year's winner will receive a house a lot from Sta. Lucia Realty Corp., a talent contract worth P300,000 from Distillers Limitless & Co., Inc., a trip for two to Boracay courtesy of SEABC and Proof of the Pacific Resort, one year supply of Mary Pauline Salon services and gift certificates from Red Chili Shop. Call 301-7491 to 98 local 890 or (0920) 502 5022.

Instructions for local media

By the Entertainment Staff

HI ALL,

I will host the media tete pose tomorrow somewhere inside the venue ... Please ask all accredited media to go there and inform them that your coverage Eh will be going before the show.

Also, please inform them that they will be escorted out of venue after the third song of Mr. Ogild era. They have the option to bring their cameras outside, and return (without cameras) to watch the show in the audience area. But nevertheless their camera will still be escorted out.

***

This e-mail was received by the Entertainment desk on Wednesday. "Subject: Local Media." It pertained to the concert of Filipino singer Christine Aguilera last night.

On Friday night, we got a second e-mail from the organizers. [or from local promoters], with more detailed instructions. Yes, for local media.

Here are the clear parameters for media coverage, for press conference.

[A] total of 4 photographers ... and he allowed to shoot 2nd and 3rd song. No flash. After 2nd song, they will be escorted out of venue. They may opt to go back and watch the show without their cameras.

For video coverage ... all shows [accredited] can cover from zero ... only 1 cameraman per show. No assistants will be allowed. They should proceed to media tent and will be escorted into the pit. After the first song they will be escorted out.

For 2nd and 3rd song ... [first] 60 seconds of 2nd and 3rd songs they will only be allowed to do according of live feed to be given to them by the stage video crew.

And so on. Wouldn't we all like to see the instructions for the foreign media?

Rushes Sunday

Nine salute

Angel Locsin has been spotted on a date with a puppy (pun—of a professional, unattached—especially the sort of a retired action and a military man. Where does this leave Xavier Contreras' co-star Robin Padilla and Marvin Agustin?

Boys don't cry

A GMA 7 insider says Robin is still pursuing Angel, and is planning to visit her in London, where she will take a month-course in fashion design.

Joey answers back

Movie queen Amalia Fuentes outraged husband Joey Marquez called up because Entertainment to clarify a few issues.

• Dan he's only 71, not 75. He showed up at JE's but stated his birth date, May 4, 1936.

• That he never said "forgot," during a previous interview, but "Esther or Esther Garcia."

• That he referred to "Esther" all throughout—particularly when he mentioned "the Ring" he apologized to "all Estellas involved."

Still livid

"He is 71!" Amalia insisted. Yesterday if he was born in May 1936, then he's 72. [And] why should he apologize to actress-star? I was the only one he hurt?"

Nor-breakup

It must be contagious.

Another show biz breaking rumor involves Cesar Montano and Isabelle Daza.

Neither Angelica Cossio's manager, denied the rumor that Sunshine had run away. "They're in their Quezon City house," Marina told the [illegible]com on Thursday.

Angelica herself sent in this text message: "I was shocked ... I never left ... There is no breakup."

Asia's sexiest vegan

HONG KONG—The 4-ft tall Maggie Q has been named Asia's sexiest vegetarian by the animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. AFP

***

Top of the tabloids

Top show biz stories in local tabloids this week (and why we are

ALSO H2 to

Get a chance to get exclusive access to the advance screening of
HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX
on July 10, 2007 (Tuesday) at Greenbelt 3 Cinema 2, 7:30pm

Tune in to RX 93.1 get a chance to win exclusive invites to the most awaited movie of the year!